

Gulf war in 'critical' stage

BAHRAIN (R) — Information ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), meeting in Jeddah on Saturday, were told that the Iran-Iraq war has reached a critical point. Omani Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rowass, opening the first conference of the ministers since the GCC was created in 1981, said the war had "reached a critical point that cannot be ignored," the Saudi Press Agency said. The conference follows a series of meetings of under-secretaries and directors of radio and TV stations. It is expected to outline a cooperative information policy for the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The ministers are also expected to discuss an Omani working paper on an information charter. Earlier, Mr. Rowass was quoted as saying he was pessimistic on the possibility of bringing an early end to the six-year-old Gulf war.

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Irbid results officially announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali on Saturday officially announced that Mr. Jamal Obaidat has won Thursday's Irbid by-election to one vacant seat in the Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Majali sent a cable to Mr. Obaidat congratulating him on winning the seat.

Firebomb hurled at refugee camp chief's home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Unknown men hurled a fire bomb on Saturday at the home of the elected chief of a north Jerusalem refugee camp in an apparent protest against the arrest of 20 Palestinians from the camp on Friday, police said. No injuries or damages were reported from the attack in the Shuafat refugee camp which police said stemmed from an internal conflict between residents.

Iraqi leader urges non-aligned role in peace efforts

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has called on the Non-Aligned Movement to end the Iran-Iraq war, now in its sixth year, the Iraqi News Agency reported Saturday. It quoted President Hussein as telling the Yugoslav newspaper Oslobođenje on the movement's 25th anniversary: "Failure of the movement to take a decisive step to end the Iran-Iraq war and other conflicts creates doubts about its influence at the international level."

Sand in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived here Saturday for talks with Sudanese officials on bilateral cooperation. He was to hold talks with head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and his counterpart Sharif Hindi on continued Saudi financial assistance to Sudan, Sudanese officials said.

Carter assails Reagan and Thatcher

TREDGAR, Wales (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter expressed support for economic sanctions against South Africa on Saturday and criticised President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for opposing such measures. "The leaders of Great Britain and the U.S. stand almost alone in their attitude, which is interpreted by many people as condoning or preferring apartheid or racial prejudice," Mr. Carter told a news conference in this Welsh town.

Brazil goes down to France

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (R) — France beat Brazil on penalties in the World Cup quarter-final here on Saturday, France: 1, Brazil: 1 after extra time (halftime 1-1, fulltime 1-1, penalties 4-3). Scorers: Brazil — Careca (47th minute), France — Michel Platini (41st minute). France plays either West Germany or Mexico in the semifinal here on Wednesday.

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2 freed French hostages head for home from Syria

Combined agency despatches

TWO FRENCH hostages freed by kidnappers in Lebanon flew home from Syria on Saturday after intelligence officials drove them from Beirut to Damascus, airport officials reported.

A French government Mystere-20 executive jet carrying the two men, television correspondent Philippe Rochot, 39, and cameraman Georges Hansen, 45, took off from Damascus airport at 2.58 p.m. (1158 GMT) Three senior French government officials also were aboard the jet.

Before they left, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a pledged to help secure the release of seven other French hostages and 11 other foreigners, including five Americans, kidnapped in Lebanon.

The French captives include the freed men's colleagues from France's Antenne-2 station, soundman Aurel Cornea, 42, and lighting engineer Jean-Louis Normandin, 34.

The two freed men were taken under a heavy Syrian guard from a hotel in west Beirut Saturday morning and escorted on a

110-kilometre road trip to Damascus. As soon as they reached Damascus, they were taken to see Mr. Shara'a — a move clearly indicating Syria's role in gaining their freedom.

Syria had stepped up contacts in recent weeks to free the foreign hostages. At the same time, France also made strenuous efforts to improve relations with Iran, another Islamic state with influence in Lebanon.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac singled out Syria, Iran and Algeria and lauded their help in freeing the two Frenchmen. But there was no immediate word whether the other two French TV crew would soon be released.

Rochot and Hansen walked into the Beau Rivage hotel late Friday night after a series of anonymous telephone calls saying they were about to be freed.

The two men, unshaven, said they were well treated by their captors. Rochot told reporters he was kept in the same room as Cornea, while Hansen was held with Normandin.

"The people who kept us were nice... they kept telling us they had nothing against the French people," Rochot said.

Besides Cornea and Normandin, six other French nationals are still held hostage. So are five Americans, two Britons, an Italian, an Irishman and a South Korean.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said last month the American bombing raids on Libya on April 15 had set back efforts to free the U.S. hostages, reported to be held by the Islamic Jihad.

The French crew from Antenne-2 TV were seized on March 8 after they filmed a rally of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah party. The "Revolutionary Justice Organisation" claimed responsibility.

Rochot and Hansen spent their first night of freedom in the Beau Rivage under the watchful eye of Syrian security men.

Saturday morning they appeared, looking relaxed, on a

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Kuwaiti parliament urges tighter security

KUWAIT (AP) — Parliament on Saturday denounced the blaze that raged at the southern Kuwaiti Mina Al Ahmadi oil complex earlier this week, urging the government to tighten security precautions and get rid of unidentified high executives of the Kuwait Oil Company on account of alleged negligence, industry sources reported.

The blaze was ignited by five synchronised blasts at Al Ahmadi and nearby oil wells. Two pipeline networks and one oil well were affected by the blaze, which was gradually extinguished.

Government officials and parliament deputies blamed the blaze on criminals who, they said, was instigated by a neighbouring power that they did not identify.

Arab diplomatic sources said these officials were obviously pointing a finger of suspicion to pro-Iranian Shi'ite expatriate workers living in Kuwait.

"The assembly (parliament) calls on the government to exert

more attention and precautions, with a view to upgrading specialised apparatuses to safeguard stability and security throughout the country," parliament said in a statement to local newspapers.

An inquest underway into the blaze was conducted in strict secrecy. The newspaper Al Rai Al Aam quoted an Interior Ministry official as saying that "certain preliminary clues" have been gained into the blaze "crime and culprits."

The fires last Tuesday coincided with the departure of a number of people who previously visited the Kuwait Oil Company quarters and installations, the paper quoted the unidentified official as saying.

"Leading positions in the KOC will be purged, after certain shortcomings and dereliction were ascertained in dealing with the blaze, and after charts of the (Al Ahmadi) region had disappeared," the paper added without elaborating.

Captive Cypriots released

NICOSIA (R) — Two Cypriot engineering students kidnapped in Beirut on April 28 were released after the "personal intervention" of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and flown home by Lebanese army helicopter on Saturday.

Stavros Yiannaki and Panayiotis Tirkas, both 25, flew to Cyprus accompanied by Cyprus's ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, a government information official told Reuters.

The official said the Cypriots, who had not been seen since they were seized by gunmen outside the American University of Beirut, were freed after the personal intervention of Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

This followed a plea to Mr. Arafat from Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou, the official

(Continued on page 3)

S.African unrest continues amid criticism over new security laws

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — The South African government said on Saturday that "unrest" was continuing in black townships but violence was declining. Opponents of the government continued to criticise its 10-day-old state of emergency and its decision to enact tough new security laws.

"There was a significant decrease in unrest-related incidents with only isolated and minor incidents reported mainly on the East Rand (east of Johannesburg)," the bureau for information said in a statement.

The bureau has listed 54 deaths since the emergency began on June 12, but its reports cannot be verified because of restrictions on the activities of journalists and photographers.

Police Commissioner Johannes Coetzee on Saturday lifted an order barring reporters from entering black townships in a move which officials said was designed to allow coverage of sporting and social events.

But Mr. Coetzee replaced the old order with a new one, and under emergency rules any reporting of actions by the security forces is still banned, as is eyewitness reporting of riots.

Photographs of the security forces or of riots are also illegal but lawyers said the new rules

apparently allowed coverage of peaceful events in black townships such as funerals.

There was unusual confusion among government officials Saturday over an emergency order by Western Cape police chief Brigadier Chris Swart published in a government gazette in Pretoria.

The order, broadcast on state radio, was then denied and finally confirmed by the government. It bans the publication in the Cape Town area of any statements by dozens of organisations including the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Louis Nel, deputy minister responsible for information, told reporters when pressed for clarification that Mr. Swart had denied issuing the order and police in Cape Town said they knew nothing of the ban.

Mr. Nel later confirmed that the order had been issued.

Opponents of the government meanwhile continued to criticise the ruling National Party for forcing two new security laws through parliament despite opposition from Indian and coloured (mixed-race) politicians.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that the United States government was keeping careful track of the number of people

detained under South Africa's state of emergency regulations.

In a dispatch from its Washington bureau, the newspaper quoted administration officials as saying the largest group of detainees arrested were local township leaders from citizen associations and youth groups.

The officials said U.S. embassy personnel had obtained the names of several detainees, and the Times said the officials provided five names as a way of signalling to South Africa that the United States is keeping track of detainees.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has left open a slight possibility of more U.S. measures against South Africa in response to Pretoria's state of emergency.

He told reporters during a flight to Asia that U.S. policy on South Africa could be compared to an electrical rheostat in which pressure was gradually stepped up aiming to end apartheid, the country's system of racial separation.

"We have tried to do that in a manner that lends strength to our statement but leaves us in a position to use what persuasion we can," he said. "What we are trying to get hold of is a rheostat. It may get worked over a little further. It remains to be seen."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, addresses the annual board meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council on Saturday (Petra photo)

Regent calls for well-founded Jordan-Egypt trade relations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said on Saturday that Jordan and Egypt have common social and economic denominators and should therefore lay down a strong foundation for bilateral cooperation.

Both countries should strengthen the concept of economic groupings and bilateral economic cooperation for the coming decade, and should plan ahead for a stronger economy for the Arab World to enhance stability and ensure a better future in the region, the Regent said.

"Unless we do the planning ourselves for our own future, others will plan for us without our participation," the Crown Prince said at the annual board meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council.

He said it was painful to see Arab capital frozen in financial markets of London, Geneva and New York "while we seek capital for investment in Arab development projects."

"Our duty," he said, "is to revive the whole of economic groupings and bilateral cooperation within the Arab World."

The Regent called for serious cooperation between countries that export manpower and those which import it. He announced that preliminary procedures were being taken by The Arab African Bank in cooperation with the Islamic Bank for holding an Afro-Arab summit meeting in the coming year to discuss such cooperation.

In advanced nations economic decisions are taken by the private sector while in Arab states such decisions are normally taken by governments, Prince Hassan pointed out. In addition, he said, "in the Arab World we face obstacles and difficulties in extractive industries as well as in marketing our products."

For example, he said, Egypt has been importing potash from Canada and Jordan importing ammonia from far away regions although these two products are available in Jordan and Egypt.

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CAEU holds meeting in Amman

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opened its 45th ordinary session on Saturday in Amman. The two-day meeting, which is held at the level of finance, planning, economy and trade ministers from CAEU member states, is expected to discuss topics ranging from the world economic situation and its impact on Arab economies to issues related to implementing the council's plan of action for the next five years.

Means to improve the financial status of the CAEU and strengthen the Arab Common Market are also two major subjects to be discussed at the meeting. Pan-Arab agricultural and industrial integration is another topic for the meeting.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Central Bank on Friday delegates attending the meeting.

Participants from Sudan, Egypt, South Yemen, North Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Libya and Jordan are attending the 45th CAEU session.

Saturday's morning session was devoted to finalising an agenda for the session. Participants addressed the gathering and outlined various issues facing the council so as to arrive at a definite list of topics to be discussed during the meeting.

Minister of Industry and Trade Raja'i Muasher told the meeting it was vital that member states honour their financial commitment to the council, which is facing a deficit in funds accumulated over the years.

If member states do not fulfil their commitment to the CAEU, Dr. Muasher said, the council's work will be paralysed and its efforts towards achieving pan-Arab economic integration would be in vain.

Jordan, Dr. Muasher said, is willing to fulfil its role and meet its commitment to the council to make Arab integration a reality.

Syrian Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Imadi told the meeting that external threats pose a grave danger to Arab economies which are already facing difficulties. Apparently, Dr. Imadi was referring to last week's sabotage at Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi oil complex and the April 15 American air raids on Libya.

Dr. Imadi, the outgoing CAEU president, briefly outlined the achievements of the council in the past year and said the council focused on a comprehensive programme to develop inter-Arab trade.

During the year, the Syrian minister said, the council also maintained close contacts and boosted relations with international organisations. The Arab Pharmacists Union was established as a result of the council's efforts, Dr. Imadi said.

The council also financed a number of inter-Arab joint ventures, Dr. Imadi said.

Iraqi Minister of Finance Hisham Hassan Tawfiq addressed the meeting and praised the CAEU's role in efforts towards total Arab economic integration.

Arab states are under critical economic situations and therefore they should work towards economic unity and a unified Arab economic strategy, Mr. Tawfiq told the meeting.

The Iraqi minister was nominated as president of the CAEU during the 45th session. CAEU Secretary-General, Mahdi Al Obaidi emphasised the need for urgent joint Arab economic action since, he said, the

(Continued on page 3)

The Jordan Times' new telephone numbers: 667171-6 and 670141-4

SPLM accuses Sudan of obstructing peace move

ADDIS ABABA (R) — A southern Sudanese guerrilla spokesman, speaking on the eve of a new round of negotiations, Saturday accused the Khartoum government of obstructing a peace settlement.

Atem Yaak, spokesman for the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), said in an interview with Reuters that the new civilian government under Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi was disregarding proposed settlement terms agreed between the rebels and an all-party group in March.

Known as the Koka Declaration, after the Ethiopian spa town where the first talks between the two sides were held, the declaration called for a transitional government until fresh elections based on a new constitution which acknowledged southern grievances.

A second meeting between the group, which includes representatives of Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party, and the SPLM is due to take place in the Ethiopian capital on Monday to discuss terms for a constitutional conference.

Rebel leader John Garang wants what he calls a "new Sudan" that redresses the imbalance between the Arab and Islamic centre of the country and the

remote Christian and animist regions of the south, where his forces are fighting.

The Koka Declaration also called for the abolition of Islamic Sharia Law, considered harsh and alien by non-Muslims in the south, and the abrogation of all military alliances. Sudan has military pacts with Egypt and Libya.

Atem Yaak said the SPLM was still in force and Mr. Mahdi had ignored the Koka Declaration.

"We are for a united Sudan based on democracy, justice and equality. But Mr. Mahdi is putting lots of hurdles against this approach," he said.

The spokesman said the conflict was no longer a question of north versus south, as the Khartoum authorities would like to portray it.

"It is a problem for the whole Sudan which can only be solved through a democratic discussion at a constitutional conference in which all shades of political opinion are represented," he said.

Sen. Frank Murkowski questioned Mr. Wisner on the Egyptian government's stance on terrorism and Libya. Mr. Wisner said Egypt's relations with Libya have been strained. "There is very little love lost between Tripoli and Cairo," he said.

"The Egyptians have very strong feelings on terrorism," Mr. Wisner said. He explained that Egypt has been "a victim of terrorism," citing the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and other attacks against Israelis in Egypt.

He noted that the Egyptians have been in touch with the U.S. "on matters relating to terrorism." He said the Egyptians "take this issue most seriously."

He also stressed that the Egyptian government has offered the U.S. good security in the country.

However, he conceded that the U.S. and Egypt had a disagreement over the handling of the Achille Lauro affair, calling it a "complicated period."

Mr. Wisner said there has been substantial movement on the Taba issue. "Lawyers on both sides, today, are sitting down and going over, very carefully, exactly what kinds of questions are going to be arbitrated," Mr. Wisner said.

Once arbitration is underway on Taba, Mr. Wisner said, it will pave the way for increased diplomatic exchange at the ambassadorial level and a greater exchange of commerce.

Sen. Murkowski asked Mr. Wisner to assess the Egyptian level of FMS debt. He said the aggregate military debt totals \$9 billion, with \$4.6 billion of that owed to the United States. Egypt is paying the U.S. \$500 million annually on the debt, he said.

That debt burden, given Egypt's present economic circumstance, "weighs very heavily," according to Mr. Wisner. "Egypt's economy has suffered very severe shocks," he added.

He added, "Egypt faces, perhaps, a balance-of-payment gap of some \$3 billion," Mr. Wisner said. Senior members of the two governments have met, he said, to discuss measures that can be undertaken to respond to the problem in "a most reasonable way."

Friday night's release was the first of foreign hostages here since French teacher Michel Brian, kidnapped in April, reappeared three days later in remote Lebanese highlands.

Like most kidnappers of foreigners, Brian's captors declared hostility to Western activities in Lebanon.

But other groups of kidnappers have publicly posed far more complex conditions, including freedom for pro-Iranian and other Arab prisoners in the Gulf, Israel and Europe, and an end to Western support for Iraq in its Gulf war with Iran. Some may have posed secret conditions, Beirut commentators say.

With acute brinkmanship, kidnappers have piled on the pressure by announcing the "execution" of hostages and issuing photographs of corpses that leave relatives in agonies over their authenticity.

Even video tapes have been used. One purportedly showed the hanging of a British hostage, while another showed Frenchmen appealing to President Francois Mitterrand for help. A similar plea went by letter from U.S. captives to President Ronald Reagan.

Matters are complicated further by security problems, with much mediation work taken up in verifying the authenticity of mediators, kidnappers or their representatives.

A stream of Western mediators has flown to Beirut and Damascus over the past 18 months, some secretly and some in a blaze of publicity, but most apparently

with little effect.

One, Franco-Lebanese Doctor Razah Raad, made several visits on behalf of French hostages but gave up amid doubts over statements that he had actually met the captors.

Differences in anonymous calls from groups have aroused speculation that some comprise separate cells sharing the same name and anti-Western sentiment but, confusingly, little else.

"Lives of captors and captives are at stake," said Mr. Waite last year, summing up complex security problems.

In the most spectacular hostage incident, Shi'ite gunmen shot dead an American and held 39 others from a hijacked U.S. airliner for two weeks in June last year to back demands for the release of prisoners held by Israel.

The Americans were freed only after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his close Lebanese ally, powerful Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, intervened with radical Shi'ite groups.

The United States and Israel denied they agreed conditions for freeing the Americans and Israel angered Lebanese Muslims by staggering the release of its prisoners over months.

The release of the French Friday night follows stepped up mediation by Syria, influential with many armed groups here, and better relations between Paris and Tehran — a development considered crucial in Beirut for the French hostages.

The Reagan administration has refused to reveal details of its efforts to free its nationals.

The State Department last September declined to comment on an NBC television report that Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, made a secret trip to Syria to ask for Mr. Assad's help.

Mr. Waite, an Anglican Church lay official who previously negotiated the release of Westerners from captivity in Iran and Libya, has not been back to Beirut since late December and has said prospects for American hostages look unpromising.

Many Beirut analysts agree, citing evidence the hostages' lives are threatened by assertive Western actions in the region such as the April 15 British-backed U.S. bombing of Libya.

Mr. Assad said efforts for the hostages were hampered by the raid, which was followed two days later by the retaliatory killing by Beirut kidnappers of two Britons and an American.

Observers also cite the announcement by the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group of the "execution" of U.S. diplomat William Buckley last October in revenge for the deaths of more than 50 people in an Israeli air raid on Palestinians in Tunis.

The group also said it killed French hostage Michel Seurat in revenge for the reported killing in Baghdad of two Iraqi dissidents expelled from Paris. The Iraqis were later shown to be unarmed, while the bodies of Seurat and Buckley have never been found.

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Senate committee considers new envoy for Egypt

WASHINGTON (U.S.A.) — Members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee questioned Frank Wisner about terrorism, Egyptian debt levels, and foreign military sales (FMS), during his confirmation hearing to be the next ambassador to Egypt.

Mr. Wisner told the senators that he was looking forward to working on strengthening American political ties with Egypt and in participating "in the quest for peace in the Middle East."

He also said he was looking forward to "tackling" Egypt's difficult financial circumstances and "to listening very carefully" to what is on the minds of the Egyptians.

Sen. Frank Murkowski questioned Mr. Wisner on the Egyptian government's stance on terrorism and Libya. Mr. Wisner said Egypt's relations with Libya have been strained. "There is very little love lost between Tripoli and Cairo," he said.

"The Egyptians have very strong feelings on terrorism," Mr. Wisner said. He explained that Egypt has been "a victim of terrorism," citing the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and other attacks against Israelis in Egypt.

He noted that the Egyptians have been in touch with the U.S. "on matters relating to terrorism." He said the Egyptians "take this issue most seriously."

He also stressed that the Egyptian government has offered the U.S. good security in the country.

However, he conceded that the U.S. and Egypt had a disagreement over the handling of the Achille Lauro affair, calling it a "complicated period."

Mr. Wisner said there has been substantial movement on the Taba issue. "Lawyers on both sides, today, are sitting down and going over, very carefully, exactly what kinds of questions are going to be arbitrated," Mr. Wisner said.

Once arbitration is underway on Taba, Mr. Wisner said, it will pave the way for increased diplomatic exchange at the ambassadorial level and a greater exchange of commerce.

Sen. Murkowski asked Mr. Wisner to assess the Egyptian level of FMS debt. He said the aggregate military debt totals \$9 billion, with \$4.6 billion of that owed to the United States. Egypt is paying the U.S. \$500 million annually on the debt, he said.

That debt burden, given Egypt's present economic circumstance, "weighs very heavily," according to Mr. Wisner. "Egypt's economy has suffered very severe shocks," he added.

He added, "Egypt faces, perhaps, a balance-of-payment gap of some \$3 billion," Mr. Wisner said. Senior members of the two governments have met, he said, to discuss measures that can be undertaken to respond to the problem in "a most reasonable way."

Friday night's release was the first of foreign hostages here since French teacher Michel Brian, kidnapped in April, reappeared three days later in remote Lebanese highlands.

Like most kidnappers of foreigners, Brian's captors declared hostility to Western activities in Lebanon.

But other groups of kidnappers have publicly posed far more complex conditions, including freedom for pro-Iranian and other Arab prisoners in the Gulf, Israel and Europe, and an end to Western support for Iraq in its Gulf war with Iran. Some may have posed secret conditions, Beirut commentators say.

With acute brinkmanship, kidnappers have piled on the pressure by announcing the "execution" of hostages and issuing photographs of corpses that leave relatives in agonies over their authenticity.

Even video tapes have been used. One purportedly showed the hanging of a British hostage, while another showed Frenchmen appealing to President Francois Mitterrand for help. A similar plea went by letter from U.S. captives to President Ronald Reagan.

Matters are complicated further by security problems, with much mediation work taken up in verifying the authenticity of mediators, kidnappers or their representatives.

A stream of Western mediators has flown to Beirut and Damascus over the past 18 months, some secretly and some in a blaze of publicity, but most apparently

with little effect.

One, Franco-Lebanese Doctor Razah Raad, made several visits on behalf of French hostages but gave up amid doubts over statements that he had actually met the captors.

Differences in anonymous calls from groups have aroused speculation that some comprise separate cells sharing the same name and anti-Western sentiment but, confusingly, little else.

"Lives of captors and captives are at stake," said Mr. Waite last year, summing up complex security problems.

In the most spectacular hostage incident, Shi'ite gunmen shot dead an American and held 39 others from a hijacked U.S. airliner for two weeks in June last year to back demands for the release of prisoners held by Israel.

The Americans were freed only after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his close Lebanese ally, powerful Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, intervened with radical Shi'ite groups.

The United States and Israel denied they agreed conditions for freeing the Americans and Israel angered Lebanese Muslims by staggering the release of its prisoners over months.

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Omani leader arrives in UAE

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman arrived Saturday on a state visit to the United Arab Emirates for cooperation talks with President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan.

UAE officials said that talks will deal with the situation in the Gulf region, current Arab political developments, and means of strengthening bilateral relations.

Sheikh Zayed was quoted as saying that the talks will deal with means of safeguarding stability in the Gulf region. He told the Omani newspaper Al Watan that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "constitute an important political force" and a "unity framework for the countries of the region."

Oman and the UAE are members of the GCC, an economic and military alliance that also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

Sultan Qaboos was accorded red carpet welcome, with Sheikh Zayed greeting him at Abu Dhabi Airport. The sultan got a 21-gun salute as he alighted from the royal jetliner. He and Sheikh Zayed inspected an honour guard before shaking hands with a long line of high officials, Arab and foreign diplomats.

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Violence erupts in Spanish enclave

MELILLA (R) — Riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in this Spanish enclave in North Africa Saturday to break up a clash between the city's Muslims and Spaniards, authorities said.

They said violence erupted when a group of taxi drivers attacked the home of Muslim leader Abomar Mohamedi Dudu, alleging his followers had stoned one of their cars.

The attack led to a pitched battle which was broken up by police. Dudu told reporters several of his family members were injured in the attack on his home.

There were no reports of arrests. Local police chief Captain Jose Cervino was sacked Friday after he refused to break up a demonstration by some 1,000 Spanish right-wingers.

The protesters were demanding the resignation of the central government's representative in Melilla, Andres Moreno.

IMF mission due June 28

AMMAN (Petra) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission is due in Jordan on June 28 for a 10-day visit during which they will meet with Jordanian officials and acquaint themselves with the economic situation in the country and the government's economic policy.

The mission comprises specialised experts and their visit is part of periodical tours conducted by IMF teams to examine the economies and policies of member countries to make sure that their policies are sound. The visiting IMF missions also offer consultancy and expertise to countries which benefit from IMF loans.

The last IMF mission to visit the Kingdom praised the economic policy adopted by the Jordanian government to activate local investment and Jordan's ability to attract foreign investment to boost the national economy.

The Ministries of Finance, Planning, Labour, Trade and Industry, Supply and Agriculture as well as the Central Bank of Jordan and other concerned departments have named representatives who will meet the mission.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tawjihi exams come to an end

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general examinations for tawjihi students in Jordan ended Saturday and a spokesman for the Ministry of Education said that 49,921 students took the examination which lasted eight days. He said that 632 examination halls were used by students around the Kingdom. According to the ministry's director of examinations, marking will start on June 23 and nearly 3,000 teachers, divided into 20 committees, will take part in the procedure. These committees, he said, will be conducting their job in Amman and Irbid.

Decree approves ARA appointment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving a cabinet decision which appointed Dr. Duraid Mahasneh as secretary general of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA). Dr. Mahasneh earlier served as director of the marine sciences station in Aqaba.

Arab bankers meet in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day meeting of the board of the Arab banks union was held in Amman Saturday. Addressing the meeting, Central Bank of Jordan Governor Hussein Al Qasem underlined the importance of Arab banking to Arab economies. The board heard a report on the union's activities and programmes and plans for establishing a pan-Arab institute for banking studies in Amman. The meeting was held on the eve of the union's 13th general assembly meeting due to open here Sunday. The general assembly will hear reports on last year's activities and plans for 1986.

Cabinet forms agricultural delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has approved the formation of a Jordanian delegation to hold talks with Egyptian government officials on the establishment of a joint company for producing fodder and red meat. The delegation comprises three Ministry of Agriculture officials.

Regent attends joint council meeting

(Continued from page 1) The meeting of the Joint Arab-Egyptian Businessmen's Council discussed three main working papers. Special papers will review and discuss these papers.

The first paper tackled foreign trade and trade protocols signed by Jordan and Egypt since 1983 for increasing the volume of trade between them, and obstacles that impede such trade, and proposals for removing obstacles.

The second paper focused attention on transport. The results of meetings by special joint technical committees on the subject and recommendations for promoting the transport sector figured high in the paper.

The third paper tackled joint investments and joint ventures. Attending the meeting were the ministers of industry, energy and mineral resources and other senior officials.

The Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council was set up last April for bolstering bilateral trade and launching joint economic ventures.

Three special committees set up by the council studied the three working papers submitted to Saturday's meeting and made recommendations, which were endorsed by the council later in the day, covered

Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in the fields of investments, trade and transport. The council's recommendations said that there was scope for joint ventures in chemical and agricultural sectors, particularly in packaging and bottling medicine. The recommendations also proposed joint projects in tourism development and the contracting sector.

The special committee on transport recommended that vehicles of both countries should be allowed to enter each other country without having to change their regular licence plates. The committee also recommended that authorities of both countries forward their respective regulations covering motoring and vehicles to each other to ensure that motorists are made aware of prevailing rules and regulations in each country.

The special committee on trade found that Jordanian-Egyptian trade was hindered by a number of administrative and financial procedures. Therefore, the committee proposed that free trade be introduced in both countries of each other's products. Each country should seek to market maximum possible volume of the other's product, the committee recommended.

CEAU holds meeting in Amman

(Continued from page 1) political and military conditions in the Arab World as well as the international area warranted such action.

Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Economy Jassem Khorafi expressed dissatisfaction with the council's achievements over the past few years and urged member states to give due attention to the council's programmes.

Lack of respect towards a required level of representation at CEAU meetings and the fact that a number of Arab countries, including Kuwait, have not made their financial contributions to the

council have hindered the development and achievements, Mr. Khorafi said.

Mr. Khorafi called on participants to avoid duplication in implementing projects and follow up on and complete implementation of agreed-upon recommendations.

Participants in the session sent a cable of appreciation to the conclusion of Saturday's meeting to His Majesty King Hussein in which they hailed Jordan's efforts towards achieving Arab solidarity. Recommendations of the session are due to be issued on Sunday.

Two captive Cypriots freed

(Continued from page 1) Official sources said the students believed their captors were "the same group that held the Soviet diplomats and killed one of them."

The body of Soviet Embassy Consul Secretary Arkady Katkov, 32, was found in west Beirut last October 2, three days after he was kidnapped with three other Soviet officials, who were later released unharmed.

Responsibility for the abductions was claimed by a group

calling itself Islamic Liberation Organisation — Khaled Ibn Al-Walid Forces.

The students themselves could not immediately be located. News of their release apparently took even their relatives by surprise, friends of one family said.

It came only hours after two French TV newsmen were freed by Beirut kidnappers.

The development reduced the number of foreigners believed held by kidnappers in Lebanon to 18.



REGENT RECEIVES DELEGATES: His Majesty Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets with delegates from the 45th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Economic Unity at the Central Bank of Jordan on Saturday (Petra photo)

Yarmouk signs accord with Chinese university

IRBID (Petra) — An agreement on academic cooperation was signed Saturday between Yarmouk University and the University for Foreign Studies in Peking. The agreement results from the two universities' willingness to strengthen cooperation and academic relations between them and is in line with a cultural agreement signed between Jordan and China.

The agreement was signed by Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran and the vice-president of the University for Foreign Studies in Peking, Dr. Howen Zhong.

The agreement provides for the exchange of members of teaching staff and researchers and for conducting joint research programmes. The agreement also provides for exchanging books, magazines, information and experiences in various fields as well as the exchange of visits by students from both universities.

Under the agreement, the University for Foreign Studies in Peking will act as a liaison office and a mediator for Yarmouk University, Chinese universities and higher institutes with regard to the university's need for teachers and trainers especially in the fields of physical education and caring for the handicapped.

Arab educationalists review trends in teacher training

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day symposium on teacher training programmes opened at the Amman Hotel in Amman on Saturday. Thirty delegates, all specialists and educationalists from nine Arab countries, will be discussing education in general, teacher training, modern techniques in teaching and problems facing instructors, according to the Ministry of Education.

The ministry's secretary general, Dr. Ahmad Al-Bashairah, who opened the meeting on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al-Majali, said that the gathering was an excellent opportunity for educationalists to exchange views and experiences in instructing teachers. Teachers play a very significant role in developing

education and in this way they have an important impact on a country's future, Dr. Bashairah said. He continued that for this reason Jordan has been keen to train good and qualified teachers. Jordan, he added, plans to open a special teachers college to turn out qualified teachers at university level.

He called on teachers' instructors to try and make use of all the teachers' potentials and to offer them incentives which would encourage them to improve efforts to impart education.

Delegates taking part in the symposium, which was organised by the UNESCO centre and the Ministry of Education, are from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, North and South Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Palestine and Bahrain in addition to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

AOAS starts discussions on public administration issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) has opened a week-long meeting to discuss the role of public administration in the Arab World. The meeting is also being held in preparation for a general conference on public administration to be held in Amman in September.

Addressing the meeting, which is being attended by specialists in public administration in Arab

countries, was Dr. Naser Al-Sayegh, the director general of the AOAS, who outlined the importance of developing administrative organisation. He said this could be done by promoting the skills of employees which would lead to providing a better service to the public.

Cross-section of troupes to perform at Jerash festival of culture, arts

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian, Arab, and international groups will perform at the Fifth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts between the July 9 and 19 at the ancient city of Jerash. A number of Jordanian plays and two popular Egyptian plays will also be performed during the event. Folklore troupes from Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Indonesia will also display their rich and colourful artistic cultures. From Spain, the Soviet Union and Italy will be ballet and dance troupes. Two groups from the United States and two unique theatre companies from France and Czechoslovakia will also present their artistic abilities at Jerash this year.

On stage

France's "Theatre a Batir," or theatre in construction, will have only two actors conducting their harmonious mixture of mime, circus, and theatre. They will perform their hit show "Dreams of Love." The Prague Panopticon Theatre is another unique troupe presenting shows full of illusion and tricks using expressive-motion acting.



sequenced music, sound effects and black-theatre tricks. Using puppets and multi-dimensional props are other means of expression used by the troupe and these different techniques are unified into one artistic whole.

Italy's "Aterballetto," which has performed in many different parts of the world, will entertain audiences at Jerash with their famous dances. Although this company was only established in 1979 by Amadeo Amodio, formerly a principal dancer in different ballet companies in Italy, it has received considerable attention in the European and American press.

Ballet

Another well-known ballet company, the Kazakh State Classical Dance Company from the Soviet Union, will perform. It is one of the leading creative troupes in the republic and its founder, Bulat Ayukhanov,

creates choreographic scenes and miniatures to music by Russian and European composers and uses classical versions of Kazakh folk dances. It is the only classical dance company in Kazakhstan.

The Spanish Ballet of Madrid choreographs works by world-renowned composers, combines this with the rich folklore of Spain and uses new aesthetic, choreographic, scenographic, and musical forms.

From the United States, the D.C. Contemporary Dance Theatre, with dancers representing different ethnic groups in America, will dance to choreography done by some of the leading dancers in the world. The other U.S. group which is coming to the festival is the Children of the World which brings together children from the ages of six to fourteen years of age representing over 30 countries of the world. The goal of the Children of the World Project is to give children the opportunity to help other children from country to country in the effort to end world hunger.

Egyptian plays

A very well known Egyptian actress, Sami Jamil, will star in the originally Greek play, "The Women's Parliament." This play will show what could happen if women steer state affairs. Another play, which has been a great hit in Egypt is "That Servant Boy Sayyed," starring the popular and comical actor, Adel Imam. The daughter of the house, who is divorced, wants to marry a servant so that she can remarry her ex-husband. The play is based on a law that says once a woman is divorced from her husband she cannot remarry him until she has married and divorced another man. This play shows the farce of such a situation.

Local theatre

Several local plays will also be staged. Among these are: "Al Wafa' (faithfulness) written by Issa Ayoub and directed by Nabil Nijem and a children's play, "Fun and Games," written by Salim Mousa and directed by Sha'ban Hamdi.

Of course, there will be more to see and do at the Fifth Jerash Festival next month. There will be Jordanian folklore troupes, different bands, poetry recitals, artistic exhibitions and more entertainment.

Ban on sale of children's aspirin derivatives without prescription goes into effect

Ministry advises parents to check labels on all medications

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Health Ministry ban on the sale of a range of drugs in the same class as children's aspirin without a doctor's prescription has gone into effect, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Saturday.

Dr. Hamzeh Thursday cautioned all pharmacists against the sale of children's aspirin and similar drugs which contain acetyl salicylate acid or derivatives without an accredited doctor's prescription. He also said that the government will request all foreign and local manufacturers of salicylates to print warnings on the packages of their products.

The minister's decision came after the United States Department for Food and Drug Registration requested manufacturers of children's aspirin and other salicylates to print warnings on these packs saying: "Children under 18 should not use this medication to treat flu or chicken pox prior to doctor's consultation on Reye's Syndrome."

The only available statistics about children contracting Reye's Syndrome have been published in a British national health report. The report said that 229 cases of Reye's Syndrome have been identified in England since 1981. The syndrome is a viral complication of flu and chicken pox and children who develop the syndrome begin by vomiting and then undergo behavioural changes and may finally lapse into a coma. Fifty per cent of the 229 identified cases died while the survivors suffer from permanent brain damage, according to the report.

Dr. Hamzeh categorically denied that there are any cases of Reye's Syndrome in the country and said that the recent resolution banning the sale of children's aspirin and salicylates without medical prescriptions is a "sincere precaution for the citizen's welfare," since the syndrome is "no joke."

Local, foreign products

At present there are four pharmaceutical companies in Jordan who produce children's medications based on aspirin and salicylates. These medications are sold under the names: Remin B, Asprivo, Aspral B, Aspinol B, and Kidiprine. Locally made alternatives to children's aspirin and salicylates are: Revanin, Dolomol, Jopadol and Pamol, and all four come in the form of suppositories.

The imported brands of children's aspirin and salicylates are Baby Aspro, Palmex, Treupel and Donaram. Imported alternatives to children's aspirin and salicylates are Paracetamol, its derivatives and Sarjeprine. Leading doctors in England have recommended that Calpol be used to treat minor children's ailments.

The minister's resolution drew mixed reactions from a number of pharmacists who were interviewed by the Jordan Times. President of the Jordan

Pharmaceutical Association Ghaleb Al Sabarrini and Mr. Mustafa Al Sheikh, a pharmacist at Shawkat pharmacy, welcomed the decision describing it as vital for public welfare. Mr. Sabarrini said: "Since Reye's Syndrome is a very recent and dangerous phenomena, the least we could do is to safeguard the health interests of our citizens."

He pledged his association's support for the minister's decision and said that the union will keep strict control over pharmacies in this matter.

Mr. Sheikh, remarking on a number of comments aired by disappointed pharmacists over the legality of issuing such a ban said: "We should not oppose such a decision since it has strong grounds which justified its issuance."

Mr. Jihad Sa'deddine, owner of Firas pharmacy, criticised the resolution describing it as a final ruling against aspirin, which he said is one of the safest and cheapest medications that has been used by people for over the past 113 years. All parents have been advised to check the labels of any medication they use to treat their children.

Parents in England have been warned not to give children a number of drugs in the same category as aspirin because of the risks of Reye's Syndrome.

Like aspirin, the drugs contain salicylates, and a Department of Health spokesman said: "The message is the same as for aspirin — don't give them to children under 12."

Warnings in England will appear on packs of aspirin along with the packs of salicylates by the beginning of next year.

Ministry, WHO join forces to check rising incidence of Malta fever

AMMAN (Petra) — The incidence of Malta fever in Jordan has recently been on the increase and the Health Ministry has been cooperating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to eradicate the disease from the country, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Saturday.

He told a regional conference on combating Malta fever that there were 39 registered victims of the disease in 1984 but that the number had risen to 60 in the first few months of this year. The Health Ministry is conducting programmes on basic health care in Jordan and continues to cooperate with WHO in all health fields, the minister said. He urged members of the public not to drink

fresh milk or to eat white cheese without first boiling them because, he said, they are known breeding grounds and means through which the disease is transmitted.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Suleiman Qubain, the director of basic health care at the Health Ministry, described the disease as common to man and animal and said that WHO has set up a special centre in Athens to research and try to combat the disease. Jordan is a member of this centre which coordinates the exchange of expertise and organises symposiums on combating Malta fever, Dr. Qubain said.

This disease causes heavy losses to the national economy because it endangers the lives of humans and

animals, he continued. For this reason, a special standing committee has been set up to take measures designed to eradicate the disease from the country, Dr. Qubain pointed out. He also reviewed measures taken by the Health Ministry in coordination with other government departments to fight the disease.

Another speaker was Dr. Papadopolos, the director of the Athens centre, who called for coordinating the efforts of all sectors concerned with the disease. Departments and organisations concerned with agriculture, industry, education, communications and public works should work together to wipe out Malta fever, he added.

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Time for sanctions is now

THE RECENT declaration of a new state of emergency by the white-dominated South African regime is a stark through the heart of the "constructive engagement" policies that Britain and the United States have single-mindedly clung to during the past year in a feeble attempt to promote a peaceful compromise solution between the Pretoria government and its black citizens. The new draconian measures come only three months after the previous state of emergency was lifted, largely in view of its utter failure to stem the violence that has now claimed more than 1,600 lives since February 1984, and after minor reforms, such as the lifting of laws prohibiting mixed marriages and the scrapping of the hated pass laws, which had been eagerly seized upon by the Reagan and Thatcher governments as evidence that Pretoria was slowly dismantling the apartheid system. The imposition of the new emergency regulations, hard on the heels of South Africa's May 19 raids on neighbouring Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, show that these piecemeal reforms were merely aimed at putting a more human face on apartheid or, more accurately, at masking the white regime's determination to perpetuate the racial discrimination that is the essence of apartheid.

The day before the announcement of the state of emergency, U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb responded to a question about the imposition of punitive economic sanctions against South Africa by saying "The administration believes that such sanctions would hinder the process of bringing the parties together by fostering intransigence on the part of the government." The day after the announcement, when it became obvious that Pretoria's level of intransigence had not been moderated in the least by Washington's patient forbearance in imposing sanctions, a white South African opposition parliamentarian observed that "The government no longer cares a damn for foreign opinion. I doubt it will be of any real influence from now on."

The report of the Commonwealth's Eminent Persons Group indicated that black South Africans have had enough of apartheid and are now prepared to die to change the system. The South African government's intelligence service confirmed this view when it reported that grassroots organisation of resistance by the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) is much stronger than had been believed, and that it is stepping up its planning for attacks on government forces. While this development apparently contributed to the decision to declare a state of emergency, it also points to the ever-greater futility of government efforts to stamp out resistance to apartheid by means of force.

We think the black people of South Africa, organised by the ANC and armed with the justice of their demands for equality and self-determination, will eventually win. Then, as the Eminent Persons Group noted in a pointed appeal to British self-interest, who will the losers be? Not just Pretoria's white ruling class, but also Britain and the United States, whose tacit support of apartheid will not soon be forgotten by the blacks of South Africa. It is time for Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan to go beyond statements of "profound regret" and "deep concern" and to lead a worldwide effort to deny the South African regime the economic means to continue the bloody oppression of its black citizens. Never mind U.S. warnings that Pretoria might resort to nuclear weaponry if pressed too hard, the time for sanctions is now.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Irbid elects deputy

THE people of Irbid have exercised their legitimate right by voting in a by-election and choosing their representative in the Lower House of Parliament. The by-election is important for Jordan and its people since it reflects the democratic, free parliamentary life they enjoy and proves they are aware of their needs and priorities and the people who can help them meet such needs. The Jordanian people have proved time and again they are worthy of the trust given them and are capable of electing people to represent them in Parliament, and help the executive authorities carry out various responsibilities. The by-election was a demonstration of the determination of the citizens in Irbid to enhance their country's democratic rule and strengthen the sense of belonging among the citizens. All citizens are called on to exert their utmost efforts for building and strengthening this country's democratic life and making everything possible to serve the nation within the framework of the constitution and in line with the principles of democratic institutions.

Al Dustour: Arab's frustration

THE absence of serious endeavours on the part of Arab countries brings about frustration, and the lack of a ray of hope for the future is really alarming for the Arab masses who are hoping to achieve peace and stability in their region. Unfortunately the Arab League and its mission designed to achieve reconciliation among Arab states have not been able to change the image, or introduce any change in the Arab situation. This freezing of the situation, and this total resignation to the state of weakness and the disintegration of Arab forces now prevailing are all disappointing for every one. The prevailing situation cannot help the Arabs fend off further tragedies and disasters, and cannot change the circumstances that have helped such disasters to happen.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's intransigence

THE loss of Arab land and the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory have been responsible for the loss of all chances for achieving peace in the Middle East. Israel has been striving hard to maintain the no-peace, no-war situation in order to thrive and to strengthen itself and at the same time continue the process of gradually swallowing up Arab land. Since 1967, when the Israelis occupied Arab territory, all Israeli actions have been directed towards maintaining this situation and driving the people of Arab territories out of their homes. The Israelis have always been behind the abortion of all peace bids and behind the tension prevailing in this part of the world. All the side conflicts in the region have been in one way or another a direct or indirect result of Israel's intransigence or plots of aggression. The Arabs, for their part, have opted for peace and have been working towards regaining their rights in implementation of United Nations resolutions. But unfortunately there has not been serious favourable response from the international community which should have acted firmly in the face of Israel's intransigence.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Privatisation gains momentum in Jordan

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

PRIVATISATION is a fairly new trend, vigorously promoted by the present administration of the United States, and applied with enthusiasm in various countries ranging from capitalist Great Britain on the right, to socialist China on the left. Public sector institutions and corporations are going private, and are being converted into private shareholding companies. Many production activities are being transferred to the private sector, on lack of efficiency grounds on the part of public ownership.

Here in Jordan, we are finding difficulty in translating the word "privatisation" into Arabic accurately. Effectively we are using the old "denationalisation" to mean

privatisation, although there are some technical differences between the two expressions. It is evident that privatisation or denationalisation do have some obvious applications in Jordan.

Many economic activities, run by the public sector, could, and perhaps should, be owned and managed by the private sector.

The public sector in Jordan has overextended itself. This was possible under the influx of Arab financial support to the treasury. The public sector started many corporations and companies, some of which are found to be wanting in profitability and efficiency, while their managements complain of lack of

bureaucratic flexibility and freedom to move in the market place.

In this regard, we need to point out that the adoption of the policy of privatisation does not necessarily mean the transfer of ownership of existing corporations and departments totally or partially to the private sector. The present circumstances do not provide the best timing for such a move. The Jordanian private sector may not be, at the moment, in the mood to commit enough capital and take over. It is not able nor willing to buy out the government ownership in the capital-intensive corporations.

The best application of the policy of privatisation in the present Jordanian

environment is not the sale of the Telecommunication Corporation, or Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, or chunks thereof, to private investors, local or foreign. The best application may be the reinforcement of the role of private sector, to practise new activities, and establish new companies and projects, which are currently left to the initiative of the public sector.

It is true that the creation of a strong Jordanian public sector did not happen as a result of nationalisation of companies owned by the private sector. It is equally true that the creation of a strong private sector does not necessarily mean denationalisation or the liquidation of the public sector

entities. Before we start contemplating the denationalisation of communication and air transport, we have to accomplish what is more fundamental, such as dismantling certain unnecessary structures of the Ministry of Supplies, such as bakeries and wheat mills, and the monopoly of importation of meat, sugar, and rice. Such activities clearly belong to the private sector, and should not be conducted by civil servants.

Except for socialist countries, all operations of imports and exports, and the management of bakeries and mills, are totally left to the private sector, which should function under the supervision

of the state. National air carriers and communication corporations fall naturally within the public sector, even among the freest market economies, except for the United States.

When we opt for a new policy we should not ignore the system of priorities. We cannot start with the ceiling if we did not yet finish the foundations and walls.

As an example, the British communication corporation was privatised only after years of preparations. The privatisation of British Airways took so far over five years of preparation and internal managerial and financial adjustments and changes are not yet implemented until this very day.

Israel's America: Critics of Zionism are anti-Semites

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Entertaining as the affair has been that has set Gore Vidal against Norman Podhoretz and Midge Decter, a serious matter is at stake. Mr. Vidal, the celebrated novelist, called the Podhoretzes (Miss Decter is Mrs. Podhoretz) "Israeli fifth columnists" inside America.

Miss Decter had said earlier that Mr. Vidal "does not like his country." Mr. Podhoretz, who edits Commentary, the monthly magazine of the American Jewish Committee, has tried to rally writers and intellectuals to denounce Mr. Vidal as an anti-Semite. According to the French press, he solicited signatures for such a statement, but only six of the 90 people initially approached would sign, a result which, one fears, may be interpreted by him as additional evidence of anti-Semitism among American intellectuals.

To declare a personal interest: While I wrote several articles for Commentary in the 1960s, I have more recently been myself denounced by Mr. Podhoretz as anti-Semitic because of things I wrote about Israel's conduct during the siege of Beirut in 1982.

I know, or knew, Mr. Podhoretz, and I respect Miss Decter in particular as a writer of high, if hazy, seriousness. I have met Mr. Vidal only once, liked him a good deal and greatly admire his essays, if not his novels. Miss Decter recently attacked us jointly, concerning things written about Central America, describing me as "more elegant... or simply less plainspoken" than Mr. Vidal as a critic of my country's policies, and therefore "rather more bewildering to the careful reader."

I do believe in conducting intellectual controversies with something other than nailed clubs, which are what have been in use here.

Israel is, of course, a subject loaded with feeling, but I would propose that reasonable people ought to be able to agree on the following:

—It is legitimate for an American to criticise or oppose the policies of the state of Israel as it is to criticise or oppose those of any other friendly state — France or Mexico, to take two cases recently in the news. One should be able to do so without an anti-Semitic motivation being imputed. Anti-Semitism certainly exists in America, but it is scarcely an issue among writers, intellectuals, university people and the policy community, where foreign policy is debated.

—The fact that Jews have been bitterly persecuted in the Christian world and were, in our time, the victims of the Holocaust gives Israel a particular claim on the Western nations and on Christians, but it does not exempt the state of Israel, as a polity, from the

same moral and political assessments and judgments that one applies to the conduct of other states, including one's own.

—It is equally legitimate for an American or European Jew to give particular support to Israel out of commitment to Judaism or to the Jewish community and cultural tradition. They have a right to do so without having imputed to them a lack of patriotism toward the country of which they are citizens.

The intensity of the controversy that arises in the case of American relations with Israel has its source in the political connection between the two countries. That connection is extremely important to Israel, and possibly is essential — although it is not unreasonable to argue that Israel could and would survive even if the United States abandoned it. The alliance with Israel, on the other hand, is for the United States, objectively, a matter of secondary interest.

The primary interests of the United States — in its security, its prosperity — could be assured without reference to Israel. It is perfectly possible to imagine an American Middle Eastern policy which sought good relations with the Arab countries and privileged relations with the oil producers and was indifferent to Israel.

Many Americans, including many in the State Department of the 1940s and 1950s, favoured such a course and opposed the special commitment that was made in those years to Israel. There was, however, never a serious possibility that such a pro-Arab policy would be adopted, and there is none now, but this is because of the feelings of the American public, not their calculations of national interest.

There are perfectly reasonable arguments for a strong American-Israeli attachment. These would be better defended if it were also acknowledged that the interests of the two countries are not identical.

Israel has not been fighting the Arabs since 1948 in order to save the Middle East from communism, or block the policies of the Soviet Union, or advance U.S. interests. It has been doing so in order to survive. It has done what it could, when it could, to support American interests because Israel's government knows that the tie to the United States is important to the country's survival.

Why should it be otherwise? National survival is the primordial obligation of any government to its people, and for Israel the question has been posed daily in a way wholly outside the American experience. Israelis have been compelled by history to be realists. It is, accordingly, in their interest that the relationship between Israel and the United States rest on realism, and on a recognition, on both sides, of the alliance's limits, as well as its strengths. — International Herald Tribune.

Freed hostages head for home

(Continued from page 1)

balcony and one called out: "We are leaving today, but we don't know where to."

They were spirited away from the hotel by a back door. Soon after a Syrian official told reporters they had left.

"We were left free near the hotel Beau Rivage and then walked to the hotel," Rochot told the AP minutes after his release.

Meanwhile, an appeal was issued for the release of two kidnapped Britons in Lebanon.

The appeal, issued by Ambassador John Gray and published by the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar, called for the release of writer Alec Collett and television journalist John McCarthy.

"Their continued detention does not serve any useful purpose," Mr. Gray said, and asked the kidnappers to call the embassy any time, giving all its telephone numbers.

Collett, 64, was kidnapped on Beirut's southern outskirts as he

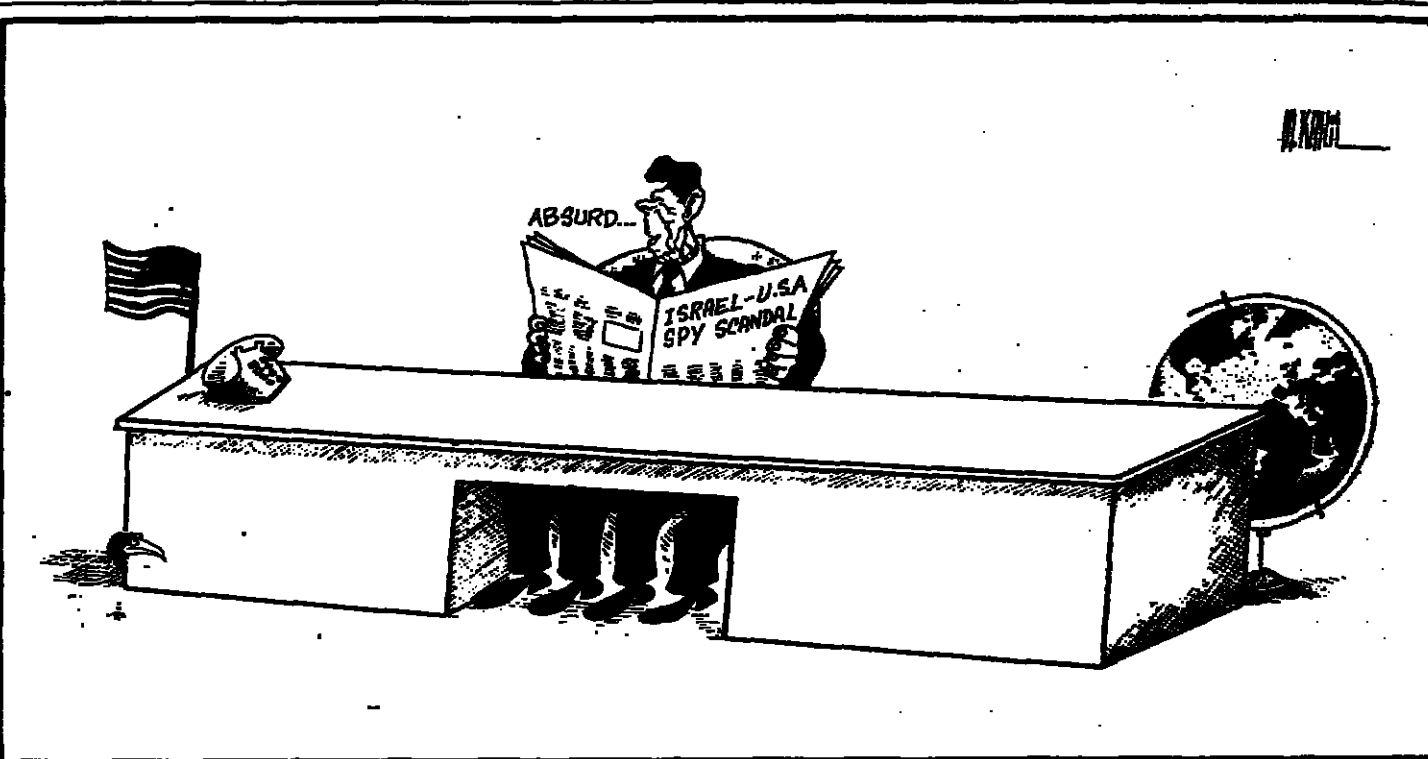
was on a writing assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees March 25, 1985.

McCarthy was kidnapped last April 17, as he was driving to Beirut airport to catch a flight to London.

The Revolutionary Organisation for Socialist Muslims, which claimed responsibility for Collett's abduction, said last May it hanged the New York-based writer in retaliation for Britain's support of the U.S. air attack on Libya.

The organisation released on April 23 a videotape purporting to show Collett hanging from a gallows. But colleagues who saw the tape could not confirm the hanging man was Collett.

"The mystery shrouding the fate of this old man is causing severe sadness for his family," Mr. Gray said in his appeal. "I fervently hope that Collett still is alive and that the videotape released last April was just a harsh trick."



Israel and the U.S: Confusion in collusion

The following article is reprinted from the June issue of *Israel and Palestine Political Report* published in Paris.

ISRAELI intelligence, once reputed the best in the world, isn't what it was. Nor, it appears, are American-Israeli intelligence relations.

On June 5, Jonathan Jay Pollard, an American Jewish citizen and former U.S. Navy counterintelligence analyst who was caught spying for Israel, entered a guilty plea. It was said he did this to prevent a long trial during which Israeli spying in the United States would have been documented in all its detail.

The move came only four days after the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Joseph DiGenova, backed by "important elements in the U.S. Justice Department," stated he was resisting any plea bargaining arrangement with Pollard. He added that regardless of such bargaining, prosecutors are expected to file much of their evidence with the Columbia District court.

Pollard's bargaining deal, which removed the possibility of a life sentence either for himself or for his wife, was allegedly strongly inspired by White House and State Department sources, anxious to sweep the affair under the carpet as soon as possible.

However, the move did not come in time to prevent leaks by the FBI and the Justice Department revealing that Pollard's wife and co-defendant, Anne Henderson-Pollard, had confessed to the existence of several more Israeli spies, three of whom were said to belong to Israel's diplomatic staff in the U.S. Two others were said to be American citizens. It was also alleged by these sources that "further arrests are pending" and that Pollard's "master case officer" was none other than a well-known Major-General (Tat Aluf) who had meanwhile been sent packing to Israel.

The FBI and the Justice Department have been upset for a long time about American-Israeli intelligence collusion. The FBI has a long-standing WASPish tradition of anti-Semitism (and anti-black bias) going back to the organisation's legendary first chief, J. Edgar Hoover. But this "natural antipathy" of the FBI for Israel and all American Jews has been reinforced of late by the hapless behavior of the CIA, which brought in more than a dozen Mossad specialists to "advise" American intelligence

outfits in the struggle against terrorism. In the process, all American anti-terror systems were laid bare before the Israelis. The Justice Department, the Treasury Department (which includes the Secret Service) and most of all the FBI strongly object to such revelations.

Another, no less serious, reason for the sudden anti-Israel moves by U.S. spy-and-enforcement

outfits is the feeling by numerous American officials that Israel reneged on its accord with the U.S. concerning the Pollard affair. This agreement included the provision that "Dirty" Raffi Eitan, Israel's former prime minister's advisor on terrorism and Pollard's ultimate chief, would be removed from intelligence activities. Eitan indeed was removed from his post but was named by Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon to the prestigious directorship of the Israeli Chemical Corporation, which is most active in Asia and, according to these officials, not at all removed from either politics or intelligence. Given Israel's renewed involvement in Asia (one case being cited: security aid granted by Israel's Shabak, or Internal Security, to Sri Lanka in its struggle against Tamil separatists), the manoeuvring of one of Israel's least liked and best known spooks at the head of an important instrument of penetration drives U.S. counter-spooks jumping mad.

Things came to a head with an article by the Los Angeles Times on May 31 called "U.S. pressing Israel over extensive spying operation," which stated that Peres knew about the spy-ring. As for the Jerusalem Post, it clearly indicated on June 1, "Washington divided over Pollard case." It doesn't take three guesses to find out who won: the pro-Israelis. But not without leaving quite a few feathers in the fight.

General, Rabbi, merchant

Another blunder by intelligence-linked Israelis is the affair of the \$2.5 billion "sting" operation mounted by the U.S. Treasury Department to smash a "private" Israeli arms ring selling equipment to Iran. The ring, headed by reserve general Avraham Baram, a true-to-life Israeli war hero, decorated for his action in the 1967 war, also included two orthodox arms dealers, Guri and Israel Eisenberg; Moshe Hevroni, a rabbi who runs a Nationalist-orthodox education centre on Yeshiva; Samuel Evans, a British lawyer based in London, and William Northrop, a minor member of the famed industrial Northrop dynasty, who has double Israeli-U.S. nationality.

Reserve General Baram, who at one stage was prevented from obtaining a senior post in the ranks of the Israeli police force because he illegally handed over a gun to a friend, has a permit to deal in arms signed by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. It is generally agreed, in circles dealing with the far-flung Israeli arms trade, that no citizens of Israel can deal in this delicate commodity without full cooperation from both the Mossad and the defence establishment.

Israel Eisenberg and his son Guri are orthodox Jews who can boast of a rags-to-riches career and who also remain linked to the Orthodox Community of

Jerusalem. Guri, the son, is said to be rather impetuous as well as connected with Gush Emunim and other religious nationalist settler circles. Rabbi Moshe Hevroni, administrator of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a hothead of fanatics, is the only main figure of the ring who managed to make good his escape back to Jerusalem.

It seems the arms dealers gang was well known to the Treasury Department, which helplessly watched its members fructuous sales of American arms to Iran and elsewhere. The opportunity to strike at them came after an Iranian banker, Dr. Cyrus Hashemi, well-known for his ties to Khomeini, was caught red-handed last year in another, smaller arms deal. The U.S. Attorney for Manhattan, Rudolph Giuliani, promised Cyrus Hashemi immunity if he were to become a double agent who would implicate a bunch of Israeli and other arms dealers, and set up a phony corporation with a bankers' credit of over \$2 billion, a "detail" that convinced the Israelis of the sincerity of Hashemi. Hashemi was aided and abetted by another Iranian national, Houshang Mehran, posing in the preliminary negotiations with lawyer Samuel Evans as an official with the Iranian mission to the U.N. in New York.

Mehran was "advised" by a team of U.S. Customs investigators who played the role of his staff. Hashemi held a whole series of complex meetings in London and in the Paris Raphael Hotel with Samuel Evans, the front man. In late January, Guri and Israel Eisenberg were brought into the picture. They proposed to Hashemi a list of weapons that they said could be supplied by their London-based BIT corporation from Israeli Ministry of Defence stocks, against false end-user certificates. The list included: Five C130E Hercules transport aircraft; 18 F-4 American-made fighter-planes; 46 Skyhawk bomber-fighters; also American-made; and a large assortment of anti-tank and air-to-air missiles. This package, to be supplied by the Eisenbergs, was to cost "only" \$800 million.

A second package, including 30 long-range bow-ties, 13 F-5 aircraft, 5000 TOW anti-tank missiles and other American-produced equipment, was to be supplied by General Baram and William Northrop at a cost of \$343 million.

The Bermuda trap

Negotiations went on from January till April, it being agreed that the weapons would be delivered with false end-user certificates indicating Turkey as the buyer. When Hashemi finally got the word from Evans that the arms were ready for shipment from Elat, Israel, to Bandar Abbas, Iran, the whole gang flew to the Bermudas to get the actual

financial transaction (valued at \$1.2 billion) under way.

Upon arrival, the gang was arrested. U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese then phoned the Bermudas authorities, first asking them to put the gang on a plane to Baltimore. The local authorities refused but agreed to detain them pending deportation proceedings. Finally, it was arranged that they should be deported "on the first available plane," which "happened" to go to the U.S. on May 28, three Israelis and two others were taken off a plane in New York and sped away under arrest.

In New York five others had been held: a British subject, Albert Fleamoy; three West Germans, Ralph Kopka, Hermann Moll and Hans Binn; and a Greek citizen, Nikos Minardos.

The Israeli authorities wildly denied that they had anything to do with the affair, terming Baram a "free lance." This raised smiles on a lot of Israeli faces: If Baram was a "free lance," then it would have been impossible for him and for the Eisenbergs — all of them certified Israeli arms dealers — to obtain the material requested. And if this was so, the whole affair would be nothing else but a gigantic swindle. The stingers might have become the stung.

Yet if this were indeed the case, one can only ask oneself what guarantee (real or apparent) the Eisenbergs and Baram could have offered to satisfy the Iranian banker and his American customs backers. After all, nobody hands over \$1.2 billion — or even agrees to meet business partners in order to do so — without some kind of hefty guarantee proving that the arms consignments indeed are available and ready to sail. Such evidence could only be supplied from Israel. More precisely, by Israeli government sources.

If this did happen, then the fable that Baram and the Eisenbergs are "free lance" crumbles. If it did not, then Rabbi Moshe Hevroni should be charged in Israel with commerce with the enemy. After all, even if the Israeli government has business and arms ties with Tehran it would hardly allow a private businessman to deal with the Ayatollah on his own.

Not everything is known in this case, just as in the Pollard affair. It is a safe bet that much will be swept under the carpet. It is no less a safe bet that more and more details will come out, either during the trial or afterwards: in his Bermuda cell, Avraham Baram has already made a lot of noise, threatening to disclose the involvement of "others" if he is kept in jail. Only after a lawyer well known for his links with internal Israeli security (Shabak) contacted him did he calm down and shut up. But General Baram is by no means the only person who knows the whole truth. And in the U.S., an inter-departmental administration civil war is still raging.

Rare peek at panda life: 1,000 survivors hang on

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Can the panda be saved? Of course, says zoologist George B. Schaller. "All it needs is bamboo and peace."

There lie the difficulties facing China's giant panda. Hunting and destruction of its bamboo forest habitat have drastically shrunk the animal's range so that more than half of the estimated 1,000 survivors live in 12 reserves in southern China. And bamboo is becoming scarce and susceptible to die-off that can starve pandas.

Strangely, the panda prefers meat, and has the simple stomach and short intestines of a carnivore. But meat is hard for the relatively slow panda to obtain, and so it relies on bamboo — loads of it.

Eats huge volumes

Unable to digest bamboo's nutrient efficiently, a panda eats large volumes — 22 to 40 pounds of leaves and stems a day. When on a diet bamboo shoots, which are 90 per cent water, a panda may consume some 650 shoots weighing 85 pounds daily.

The tally of shoots was made by Schaller, director of Wildlife Conservation International, New York Zoological Society, as part of a five-year study by China and the World Wildlife Fund in Wolong Natural Reserve. The research team, led by Schaller and Hu Jinchu, radio-collared 11 pandas to track their activities.

Schaller and his wife, Kay,

sometimes endured below-freezing winters in a two-person tent perched high on a ridge. Writing in the March issue of National Geographic, he recalls: "In the glow of a kerosene lantern I tune the receiver to Long-Long, a young male. He is on my right, down slope, active. I switch the radio frequency to Ning-Ning... Her signal is calm and constant... the animal momentarily at rest in a ravine not far from Long-Long..."

"Then, I recline," writes Schaller, "waiting until it is time to contact the pandas again, each alone in that cold stillness, their coats, the colour of snow and the darkness between trees. I cannot imagine a loneliness deeper than theirs."

Despite daily expeditions, Schaller observed a panda only on the average of once a month. Over time he determined that the home range of a panda is very small, varying from 1.6 to 2.6 square miles, and is shared with other pandas.

Although the ranges of neighbouring females may overlap, each has an area of about 75 to 100 acres in which other females do not seem welcome. Males may share ranges but avoid each other except when competing for females. The animals are active for an average of 14 hours a day, spending most of the time feeding.

Though the first live panda didn't reach the Western world until 1936, pandas have been known in China for millennia.

"The Classics of Seas and Mountains," a geography book dating back some 2,500 years, says that a bearlike, black-and-white animal that eats copper and iron lives in the Qionglai Mountains south of Yandao County.

Chews cooking pots

The panda's reputation as an iron eater probably comes from incidents of entering villages and chewing up cooking pots. Pandas get their ability to chew metal — as well as tough bamboo — from massive jaws and broad molars. Teeth of fossil pandas 3 million years old are similar to those of today's animals, showing that the pact between pandas and bamboo has existed probably as long as pandas have.

Bamboo foraging is aided by another feature — a unique sixth digit on the panda's forepaw that affords great dexterity. Some traits work against pandas. Gestation is long, apparently because of delayed implantation of the fertilized egg. And when they do give birth, usually to two cubs, one cub generally is abandoned and left to die.

The nurturing of young pandas in the wild can be as mysterious and uncertain as births in captivity. Schaller and his colleagues observed a panda known as Zhen-Zhen roared in April 1981, and they later found she had made a den in the hollow base of a huge fir tree.

When the scientists approached the den in October, a startled Zhen-Zhen lumbered toward them, screaming. Later they heard an infant squawk.

After Zhen-Zhen and her infant abandoned the den, Schaller found a nest made of wood dust and few twigs. Piled at the entrance were droppings and several logs the mother panda had hauled in. Equally puzzling was a five-foot fir sapling placed upright in the den.

Unexplained loss

Somehow Zhen-Zhen lost her infant that winter, and later another of her offspring vanished, its fate unknown.

Adult pandas are at risk too. In the mid-1970s much of the umbrella bamboo in northern Sichuan flowered and died, causing at least 138 pandas to starve to death. Then, in 1983, a flowering of arrow bamboo in central Sichuan threatened pandas there, and some had to be rescued and relocated.

Pandas also die in snares set for must deer. Poaching is the second biggest cause of their deaths, after habitat destruction.

Concern for their survival has led to creation of the Research Centre for the Protection of the Giant Panda and Its Ecosystem, in the Wolong Reserve. It includes a veterinary hospital and nursery. China and the World Wildlife Fund also plan a detailed panda census and bamboo survey to help manage "China's living treasure."



Sporting a radio collar fitted by scientists, a giant panda leaves a log trap in Wolong Natural Reserve in China's Sichuan Province. Scientists had weighed and measured the panda and then activated the collar so the animal could be monitored 24 hours a day. Some pandas were tracked more than a year.

Britain's first colour daily fights for its life

By Nicholas Phipps

Reuter

LONDON — Having started a revolution in the British newspaper industry, the nation's first colour daily is fighting for its life.

Today, launched in March by businessman Eddie Shah on new cheap-to-run technology, is languishing at less than half its sales target of one million copies a day.

Entrepreneur Roland "Tiny" Rowland, head of the Lorntho international trading conglomerate, threw Shah a lifeline last week with a no-strings injection of cash.

Lorntho, which owns the Sunday heavyweight broadsheet The Observer, has left Shah with a controlling 51 per cent stake.

But for his tabloid to survive, he must win it a secure place at the British breakfast table.

Today and Shah, veteran of a fight with unions on his provincial give-away papers, rang the death knell of the print unions' stranglehold on the national newspaper industry.

By showing the potential of new technology, they also gave a lead to others keen to start new newspapers — a new, serious daily.

The Independent, goes on sale in October backed by city of London financial institutions. Talk of other new newspapers, including new London evening, abound.

Today sent shivers through Fleet Street, traditional home of the industry, while it was still on the drawing board.

Traditional titles, weighed down by the cost of out-dated, labour-intensive hot-metal technology and wracked by a tradition of trade union militancy and restrictive practices, took note.

Rupert Murdoch, Australian-born owner of the nation's top-selling daily, The Sun, and the prestigious Times, preempted Shah. He sacked print workers when they refused to accept his new technology deal and moved to new premises with the last word in high-tech equipment in wapping, east London, without them.

Czech-born Robert Maxwell, head of the rival Mirror group, secured a new technology deal and job cuts. Other tabloids, who saw today as a direct threat, moved to cut costs.

Today, alone, boasts a true colour process, but despite that, the tabloid, which proclaims an independent political line and aims to attract readers from the middle ground, has failed to carve out a secure niche for itself.

With losses reported to be a £1

million (\$1.5 million) a month, Shah, 42, a descendant of the first Aga Khan, had problems. Rivals spoke of boardroom battles.

Last week, commentators predicted his company, News (UK) Ltd, could be swallowed up by a rival group which, at worst, would close his paper and turn its cut-price printing capacity to its own uses.

Lorntho stepped in at the last minute with £13.5 million (\$20 million) in cash and spent a further £10 million (\$15 million) helping to buy out Shah's critics on the board. It now has a 35 per cent stake.

Shah says he is aware of the task ahead.

Critics talk of indifferent colour picture quality and a lack of clear editorial identity or personality. There have also been teething problems with the new technology. "In the last 12 to 14 weeks we've spent so much time fighting fires we haven't had a chance to sort out how to run a business," Shah said.

Announcing the rescue package, he told staff: "There have been problems, but we have a good product. Our job is now to go and sell it."

There will be a relaunch. "The aim will be to give the paper greater appeal to a younger, more intelligent reader and to give a more consistent editorial line on major issues," Shah told The Observer. There are plans for an all-colour Sunday sports supplement and later a game offering cash prizes.

The rest of the industry is not without its problems.

Morale at Murdoch's newspapers is reported to be low. Unions fighting the sackings picked the east London print works which are surrounded by barbed wire and nicknamed "fortress wapping."

Sun journalists voted to join pickets but reconsidered after being offered a 10 per cent pay rise. Times journalists have voted to hold a ballot on taking industrial action over six colleagues sacked for refusing to cross picket lines.

Other managements, still saddled by high costs, are tightening their belts and pushing through job cuts.

New technology, by offering reduced production costs, has opened new opportunities, but Shah has a word of caution. "Don't put all your faith in new technology. That was the beginning of all our problems," he told the Sunday Times.

British army wages indoor war against ruthless computer

By Douglas Hamilton

Reuter

SENNELAGER, West Germany — The British army's new computer is not user-friendly. It does not forgive mistakes and its decisions are as final as bullets.

In a recent battle-group training session at the Sennelager base in West Germany, the computer had two Soviet T-64 tanks ambush and destroy four hapless British Chieftain and Challenger tanks in 44 seconds.

"Do you wish to continue this engagement?" a video screen asked after a noiseless, smokeless and bloodless "battle".

The Brigade and Battlegroup trainer, as the new computer war simulator is called, was inaugurated this month by 1st British Corps Commander General Sir Brian Kenny.

"It will enable us to reduce on-the-ground exercises, and there's increasing pressure for that because of the costs of tracked-vehicle fuel and environmental concerns," he said.

Cold, rain, wet roads and radio interference are a few of the battle elements missing from the new programme but the computer can supply darkness, low fuel, no ammunition, chemical attacks, blind canyons and other nasty surprises.

The exercise area is north-eastern West Germany and the enemy is coloured red.

In what Kenny said was a significant advance over earlier computer battle simulators, the new system demands first-hand knowledge of the real battlefield terrain.

Officers begin preparing for two-six hour "battles" by making a reconnaissance of the actual land on which they will later "fight" a battle scripted by senior staff.

The ten by five metre map board on which red maps advance at first light to meet the blue defenders represents 300 sq. kilometre of terrain around the base.

After reconnaissance lasting three days, the enemy moves on the eve of battle and perhaps lays a few minefields. Trucks and tanks have sudden overnight breakdowns.

"The board may be flat, but if

there's a hill in front of you on the actual battle scene, the computer won't allow you to see the enemy hiding behind it," Major George Tomlin said.

All the preparation is exactly as we would do in battle, just as if the bullets are flying. And mistakes are punished quickly... by the enemy," he added.

Major Robbie Campbell, a logistics staff officer, stressed that the battles are written with the help of intelligence experts who have studied Soviet doctrine and apply it to each scenario tested on the battle groups.

"The aim is to factor in as many of the things that happen in real battles as we can and keep the pressure up," he said.

Soviet superiority in some conventional weapons is also factored in, though battles never go nuclear to stop an invasion as NATO strategy prescribes, Kenny added.

In addition to defensive manoeuvres in open ground, the blues can also practise attacks and electronic house-to-house fighting in a simulated village.

The battles are played out partly from booths overlooking the battlefield map and partly from cramped cabins the size of armoured personnel car interiors where officers after a few hours begin to display traces of combat emotions.

"The battle authors like to twist our tails and we don't always agree with the computer's verdict. But it takes less time and it's certainly cleaner," said Colonel Evelyn Webb-Carter, whose battle group had just been tested.

The army acknowledges that the absence of fatigue and discomfort of manoeuvres, not to mention the fear and pain of battle, makes computer war unreal, but it says the computer gives staff realistic experience of battle procedures.

"We can't magic up a helicopter to escape," one officer remarked as the computer notched up another enemy advance.

Evidence for the reality of the situation also came from Webb-Carter, who said the single most serious error his unit had made that day was a classic failure of communications.

Mexico seeks that economic goal

Football fans say that the World Cup is all about goals. Others say that it is all about dollars. David Garner on the financial winners in soccer's top tournament

MEXICO CITY — It has been the proud boast of the organisers of the Mexico World Cup that this is the first time one of the world's biggest sporting events has been put on by the private sector, following in the commercial tradition established by Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984.

But expectations that the tournament will rival the financial success of the last Olympics are misplaced, according to Mr. Klaus Hempel, president of ISL Marketing, the Lucerne-based company which has the marketing rights to the World Cup.

"The Los Angeles Games' \$150 million profit will exceed total revenue from this World Cup," and possibly even double it," he says.

It is not immediately clear why this should be so, particularly given that 52 matches are expected to attract a cumulative total of 12 billion television viewers, the largest audience in TV history.

The organisers, furthermore, have categorically refused to elucidate the tournament's complex and bitty finances. Mr. Guillermo Canedo, president of the World Cup organising Committee, told a press conference shortly before play began that he had no intention of providing any financial information either before, during or after the event, since this was the sole concern of those who had paid for it.

The financial players can be divided initially into four main groups: the government of Mexico, as host country; FIFA, the international football federation with overall responsibility for staging each World Cup; the Mexican World Cup Organising Committee, which in practice has executive responsibility; and Televisa, in which Televisa, the powerful private TV monopoly, has a 75 per cent stake.

The Mexican government has attempted to minimise its involvement, and its outlay, unlike the last time Mexico staged the World Cup in 1970.

The government's main direct cost has been security, which it has almost certainly understated at 2 billion pesos (\$3.64 million). The cost of bringing telecommunications up to scratch is not directly attributable to the World Cup. Last September's earthquake brought down the nerve centres of Mexico's telecommunications and the government had thus already incurred the cost of rebuilding them.

Although the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, where the finals will be played, is owned by Televisa, many of the other 11 stadia are wholly or partly publicly owned. Local and state governments have helped finance their refurbishment or expansion, and built the one new stadium needed.

The state will get trickles of income, from, for example: the commemorative coins minted for the cup; the state TV network Imevision's 25 per cent stake in Televisa; and the extravagant phone charges being levied — it cost about \$900 to rent a press box phone for a match, more than eight times the rate of the last cup in Spain.

But the government's main interest is in generating tourism revenue, part of its bid to offset the collapse in oil revenue, which will this year cost it about \$8 billion.

The World Cup will contribute an extra \$40 million to \$60 million to this year's tourism earnings, and not the always optimistic \$300 million being mooted until very recently.

For the longer term, the government got Televisa to write into all contracts with foreign broadcasters the obligation to show five minutes tourism appetisers before each game.

What big money there is will be divided up largely between FIFA, the organising committee and

more than 200 varieties to over 50 nations.

The programme's aim is to find species resistant to over 250 diseases and pests that prey on the tuber, said Mr. Humberto Mendoza, Head of the IPC's breeding and genetics department.

One particularly notorious problem is so called "late blight," responsible for wiping out Irish potato crops in a famine that led to about a million deaths between 1845 and 1851.

The disease continues to surface in poor countries where peasants cannot afford fungicide to combat it, he said.

To aid them, the IPC has exported potato varieties resistant to the blight, drawing from the rich range growing in the peaks and valleys of Andean nations.

The IPC has identified 10,868 types of potatoes in Peru, 855 in Bolivia, 497 in Colombia, 325 in Venezuela, 240 in Ecuador and 233 in Chile, a study shows.

The Social Democratic government is, however, keen to supplement potatoes in the diet and cut down the food import bill by promoting the revival of traditional protein-rich grains grown by the Incas.

Televisa. These organisations are in practice closely linked.

Mr. Canedo, for example, as well as being president of the organising committee, is vice-president of Televisa, vice-president of FIFA and president of OTI, the Latin American Broadcasting Federation which feeds the cup's second largest audience after Western Europe.

FIFA's accounts for the Spanish world cup show a surplus of SFr63 million (\$35.41 million) — which is divided among the affiliated national federations — on a total stake of SFr115 million. Earnings came from its share of ticket sales (SFr40 million), TV rights (SFr39 million) and advertising sponsorship (SFr36 million). It is not clear what proportion of these three principal means of financing a world cup goes to the local organisers and broadcasters, since the latter do not present accounts.

In this cup, for the first time, the main moneyspinner will be sponsorship, which according to Mr. Hempel, of ISL, will bring in 50 per cent of revenue.

ISL has sole rights from FIFA to market the cup as well as sole rights to other major football championships and to the summer and winter Olympics in Seoul and in Calgary in 1988. It takes a cut from its contracts with FIFA, the local organisers, and the licensees of official world cup marquee.

ISL is majority-owned through a holding company by Adidas, the sports goods manufacturer, which has kitted out 17 of the 24 teams playing here, and provides the official balls. "It was already at the centre of the action on pitch," says Mr. Hempel, "and it was a logical extension to establish a presence around the pitch."

This Mr. Hempel has done by selling space on the 32 billboards around each stadium to 12 companies or brands, which in Mexico are: Bata shoes, Fujifilm, Gillette, JVC, Philips, Cinzano, Coca-Cola, Seiko, General Motors' Opel, R.J. Reynolds' Camel cigarette brand and Anheuser-Busch's Budweiser beer.

Mr. Sumar, director of the national Kiwicha programme, told Reuters that one Spanish victory in Peru banned the plant because he wanted to keep Indians weak.

The ban has also been connected with Spanish outrage at the grain's use in pagan ritual and human sacrifice, mixed with blood.

Whatever the reason cultivation dwindled from an estimated 2,000 tonnes in the Inca empire before the Spanish conquest to as low as five tonnes in the 1970s, he said.

The government goal is to boost consumption over tenfold by 1990 to enrich the diets of about a million Peruvians.

But even Mr. Sumar, based in the southern city of Cuzco, says potatoes remain top of the menu.

This month, in the predominantly Indian state of Cuzco, once capital of the Inca empire, the tuber is honoured by peasants who bring potatoes as offerings to Catholic churches.

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Vancouver Skytrain, a light-rail transit system for the rapid transportation city workers

Skytrain — Vancouver's rapid transit system

IN 1986 the world is coming to Vancouver to attend Expo '86, an international exposition celebrating achievements in the fields of transportation and communication. Many of the millions of expected visitors to the exposition will arrive at the site on one of the world's largest fully automated urban transit systems — Vancouver's recently completed Skytrain.

The Canadian-developed and manufactured Skytrain system was completed on schedule and on budget for \$854 million Cdn in January 1986. The light rapid transit system runs for 21.4 kilometres from Vancouver's downtown core to its suburbs. Skytrain's gleaming white, blue and red cars travel underground through Vancouver's downtown for a distance of about 1.9 kilometres, then rise for the remainder of the line on an elevated structure.

The system is connected with trolley buses and boats in Vancouver, and the neighbouring municipalities of Burnaby and New Westminster. The resulting integration will mean a 30-50 per cent faster travelling time for most of Skytrain's transit riders.

Designed by the Urban Transit Development Corporation of Ontario, Vancouver's new transit system features a major technological innovation with the introduction of the Linear Induction Motor (LIM). The LIM is essentially a two-metre long electric motor stretched out flat. Unlike a conventional electric motor which uses an electric current to create a magnetic field to make an iron rotor spin and turn a shaft connected to the wheels, LIM produces forward motion without this conversion.

An alternating electric current surges through copper wire in the LIM and produces a complementary current in a metal plate alongside the rails. The two currents are not in step, one constantly behind the other, thus two magnetic fields attract each other and try to join together, but never quite make it. Instead the motor slides along above the steel plate and pulls the train with it.

The LIM needs no gear or transmission because it acts independently of friction between the train wheels and rails. For limited banking the motor turns into a generator absorbing the momentum of the vehicle until the mechanical breaking system kicks

in below 10 kilometres per hour. (There is also an emergency magnetic brake which clamps onto the running rails.)

Skytrain's steerable axle-trucks allow wheels to follow rails on curves rather than scraping against them, reducing friction, noise and wear on wheels. The steerable truck feature decreases wear on wheels to one-fifth that of conventional systems, while extending the life of curve rails by an estimated 10 to 20 times, a considerable cost saving.

Skytrain combines the assured all-weather acceleration and braking characteristics of the LIM with fully automatic, driverless train control.

The system's total cost stacks up well in comparison with others in North America. On a cost per kilometre basis, Skytrain is the cheapest transportation system in North America.

Not only does improved rapid transit have an impact on a city's ability to move people comfortably and efficiently from their homes to their place of work, it also presents city planners with a golden opportunity to control development in an orderly fashion. B.C. Transit has anticipated real estate values associated to the Skytrain development by buying up large tracts of land along the line to be used as storage areas during construction. Later, as residential and commercial development inevitably gravitates towards the new stations along the line, B.C. Transit can sell off the properties at increased value creating revenues which can be applied to operation and construction costs.

When Skytrain opened in January 1986, the system carried 10,000 passengers per hour in each direction. As the metropolitan area of Vancouver grows and as the transit line is expanded, Skytrain is expected to triple its capacity, transporting 30,000 riders per hour each way along its route.

There will be 48 exhibits from countries around the world at Expo '86, including for the first time the U.S.S.R., China and the United States at the same exposition. As visitors arrive at the Expo site aboard the Skytrain, they may find that the best and biggest exhibit of all is the transportation system that got them there. — Canada features

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N. Korea calls IOC proposal 'preposterous'

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Saturday rejected an International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposal to stage some Olympic events in North Korea, calling it "preposterous," the North Korean central news agency reported.

It said the rejection was issued in a statement by Kim Duk Jun, vice-chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee.

North Korea has demanded to co-host the forthcoming Games, and last week North and South Korean delegates met in Lausanne to hammer out a compromise and avert a possible boycott.

At the meeting, the IOC proposed that the table tennis and archery events be staged in the North. The proposal was conditional on North Korea dropping all other claims to the

Seoul Games.

It also proposed that the 100-kilometre cycle road race should start in the North and finish in Seoul and that one of four groups in the soccer competition should play in Pyongyang.

Referring to the Lausanne talks, the statement scolded the idea of holding only a few events in North Korea under the supervision of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee.

"It goes without saying that this is too far removed from our joint co-hosting proposal and a preposterous one beyond

imagination," it said.

The statement said the North Korean proposal was to divide the events between the North and South and call the Games held in the North the "24th Olympics, Pyongyang."

It quoted Kim Duk Jun as saying he hoped that the IOC would "show due concern" about the Northern proposal.

The South Korean sports minister and chairman of the organising committee for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Park Sae-Jik, said on Thursday that his government was studying the IOC proposal and would notify the IOC of its decision by the end of this month.

Pyongyang has threatened to boycott the Seoul Games unless its demand to share the events equally was met.

The Men to Watch



Spain's Emilio Butragueno



England's Gary Lineker



Argentina's Diego Maradona

England will key on 'danger men'

By Phil Davison
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — England and Argentina meet on the soccer field Sunday for the first time since their 1982 war over the Falkland Islands with a place in the World Cup semifinals at stake.

Despite media hype which sees the game as "The Second Falklands War," both teams have stressed there will be nothing but football in their minds when they line up in the capital's giant Aztec Stadium at midday (1800 GMT).

England are hoping Everton striker Gary Lineker, joint top scorer in the World Cup Finals so far with five goals, will have recovered from a strained groin muscle which he picked up during his two-goal performance in the 3-0 win over Paraguay.

Lineker or Argentina's chunky genius Diego Maradona could be Sunday's matchwinner, the Englishman with his sharpness in front of goal or Maradona with his magical touches and lay-offs to teammates such as Real Madrid's Jorge Valdano.

England manager Bobby Robson said he had rested Lineker since Wednesday's match to speed recovery. But there was speculation that Lineker may be

perfectly fit and that Robson is indulging in some psychological brinkmanship.

More doubtful for the match is Lineker's Everton teammate Peter Reid. Reid took an ankle knock against Paraguay and is struggling to be fit for the Argentina game.

Reid had taken the place of first choice midfielder Ray Wilkins, who was suspended for two matches after being sent off against Morocco. Reid has played so well in the two matches that his place would be assured if he were fit.

Central defender Alvin Martin, who stood in for Terry Fenwick against Paraguay because of Fenwick's one-match suspension, is also expected to hold his place.

England's key men could be goalkeeper Peter Shilton, whose reputation as the best in the world was confirmed with two marvellous saves against Paraguay, and stylish midfielder Glenn Hoddle who had a hand in all three goals in the last match.

Hoddle told Reuters he thought Argentina, the 1978 world champions, are favourites to win. "But that suits us. Sometimes we play better when we have our backs to the wall," he said.

Hoddle said Maradona and

Valdano were the obvious Argentine danger men. "Maradona's realising he's being tightly marked, so he's concentrating on creating chances for other people. Valdano is another danger man. He's always taking up good positions in the box."

Many Argentine fans will see Sunday's match less as a Falklands re-match than as a revenge clash for the notorious quarter-final match during the 1966 World Cup in England.

England won the ill-tempered game 1-0 and Argentina has never forgiven England manager Alf Ramsey for describing the South American players as "animals."

Argentina have shed their tough image over the ensuing 20 years and, with Maradona as captain, have concentrated on skill.

They beat Uruguay 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals, but could have scored three or four more as Maradona, who plays in the Italian League with Napoli, turned in a marvellous show.

The ball seemed to be tied to his boots on a very short string and if he produces the same form Sunday it would be a brave man who bet on an England victory.

Butragueno targets injured Belgians

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PUEBLA, Mexico — Emilio Butragueno, four-goal hero of Spain's second round victory over Denmark, will aim his shooting sights at Belgium in the World Cup quarter-final here Sunday.

Butragueno became the first player for 20 years to score four goals in the World Cup Finals as Spain thrashed the high-flying Danes 5-1 in Queretaro on Wednesday to clinch the last quarter-final berth.

But Spain will have a hard task trying to quell the fighting spirit of Belgium, who twice came from behind to defeat the Soviet Union, a highly talented side, 4-3 in extra time in Leon last Sunday.

First round form presented the prospect of a spectacular duel between Denmark and the Soviet Union, two of the most attacking teams of the tournament.

But Spain and Belgium, who had each lost their opening ties in Mexico, raised their games at the right moment and won the day with their thorough and uncompromising brands of football.

Spain have lost the services of central defender Andoni Goikoetxea, automatically suspended after he was booked for the second successive game on Wednesday.

Team chief Miguel Munoz will have a problem replacing the tough-tackling "Butcher of Bilbao," who scored a thunderous penalty against the Danes.

Injuries to Antonio Maceda, Goikoetxea's customary partner in the heart of the defence, and midfielder Rafael Gordillo have already limited Munoz's options.

Belgium sent home two injured players — striker Erwin Vandenbergh and midfielder

Rene Vandereycken — this week, but the side managed well enough without them against the Soviet Union.

However, they have more injury problems which could have a serious effect on the balance of the side. Goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, twisted an ankle in practice and, like defender Michel Renquin, is a doubtful starter.

Jacques Munaron, who played in three of Belgium's qualifying matches, stands by to deputise for Pfaff.

Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta will be tested by the Belgian attack in which strikers Nico Claessen and Daniel Veys are backed by the youthful skills of Enzo Scifo, the determined runnng of skipper Jan Ceulemans, a tireless prompter of the attack in the victory over the Russians, and the equally experienced Franky Vercauteren.

'He is the best player in the world'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — His name is Diego Armando Maradona. His profession: Soccer, miracle worker.

A tousle-haired fellow, short and thick-set with a cherubic face, he could be mistaken for a rock star were it not for the muscular legs that he uses to work magic for Argentina.

Attacking-midfielder Maradona, 25, is the heart and soul of the Argentine team that faces England in a World Cup quarter-final match at Aztec Stadium Sunday.

Throughout the World Cup, Maradona has been in inspirational form.

Thus far he has scored only one goal, but his knack for spotting an opening has created countless chances for his teammates.

Even England manager Bobby Robson, the man who has to devise a way to stop Maradona, concedes Maradona is one of a

kind. "He is an exceptionally gifted and skilful player," said Robson, who is not prone to exaggeration.

"He is extra-special."

"If a number of players go for the ball, Maradona frequently comes up with it. He is very physically strong," confirms England midfielder Ray Wilkins, who plays against Maradona in the Italian League.

Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo has no doubts about his star players' ability.

"He is the best player in the world," Bilardo asserted before the Cup. "He is a natural genius who works harder and more for his team since his four-year education in Europe. He now plays for us instead of himself. That is his greatness."

Navratilova victory a 'good omen'

EASTBOURNE, England (R) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova completed her usual successful warmup for next week's Wimbledon by capturing the Eastbourne Women's Grass Court tennis title Saturday for the fifth successive year.

The 29-year-old American's 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 triumph over Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in a repeat of last year's final continued Navratilova's sequence of not having lost a grass court match in England since Wimbledon 1981.

In each of the past four years she has gone on from victory here

to add the Wimbledon crown, which she has won six times and for which she is strongly favoured again. On the two previous times she won Wimbledon, in 1978 and 1979, she reached the final here, winning once and losing in 1979 to Chris Evert Lloyd.

"I believe in destiny and this has got to be a good omen for me. I have never lost at Wimbledon after winning here," Navratilova said. "But Helena played very well and brought the best out of me."

"I was surprised that I wasn't playing as well in the opening set as I had yesterday. But I played a good game to break her serve in the second set, then I played a little better in the third," she said.

The match had just three service breaks, one in each set. Sukova, a 21-year-old who used to be a ball girl at Navratilova's matches when they were both growing up in Prague, got off to the start she wanted by taking a 3-0 lead.

Sukova crowded the net at every opportunity and frequently outwitted Navratilova, whose service lacked its usual consistency and whose volleys were strangely indecisive.

She remained in charge until the fifth game of the second set, when she failed on three chances to break Navratilova's serve. Once they eluded her, the match swung the champion's way.

"Things were not going my until then and she was playing really well. But I kept going for my shots and I figured she could not keep on playing that well through the whole match," Navratilova said.

From 3-2, Navratilova found her range and confidence to break serve in the next game and that carried her through to a deciding set, which she took with the only break in the ninth game.

It was Navratilova's 56th successive grass court victory in Britain and her 42nd win in 45 matches this year, but she had lost her last two finals, in Berlin to Steffi Graf and in Paris at the French Open to Lloyd.

"I did not want to lose again going into Wimbledon, so winning today was great my confidence," she said.

Sukova was the last person to beat Navratilova on grass, in the 1984 Australian Open, but that was her only success in 15 attempts.

"I'm disappointed with my service and I missed so many easy volleys today," said Sukova, the seventh seed for Wimbledon.

"But I still think I can beat Martina. I just hope it will be next time."

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone.

Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.
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Sight & Sound Education Centre will be conducting Computer Summer Camps for youngsters of ages 9-17 at Sight & Sound premises. Each camp will run for two weeks, 5 days a week, three hours a day (total 30 hours). Instruction is in English and one computer will be fully dedicated for every two students. All teaching will be done on the computer.

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Camp 2: (ages 13-17) July 12th, 1986 to July 23rd, 1986 from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

For further information and/or registration, call Sight & Sound

Shmeisani, opposite the Ambassador Hotel

Tel: 661136, 661137, 606768

Note: Deadline for registration, 4 p.m.

Wednesday 25/6/1986.

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Wanted for one year. Please call 663390

BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY IN JORDAN ELECTORAL CENSUS

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RABIA RESTAURANT Announces the opening of its SWIMMING POOL Fully filtered

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Also for rent are four flats. Two, of the same design, consisting of three bedrooms, lounge, sitting room and large salon with three verandas, three bathrooms, kitchen and telephone and also two flats each with two bedrooms, veranda, dining room, large salon, one bathroom, kitchen, telephones in the same site.

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Enjoy watching the World Cup while you dine with us

Also take-away service

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Take away service available

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REMO

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Dangerous

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675373

CUT AND RUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cine Theatre Philadelphia

Tel: 634144, 634149

THE DEVASTATORS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

SLAUGHTER IN SAN FRANCISCO

Performances: 12:15, 3:45, 5:45, 8:15

EC dampens Comecon bid to open formal trade ties

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) is expected to drag its feet on Soviet proposals to open formal trade ties with the communist trading bloc Comecon, EC diplomats said Friday. The two groupings have yet to recognise each other after almost 30 years of existence.

The EC diplomats said the Community would try to exploit an apparent split in East European ranks to build up new ties with individual Eastern states.

They said the new policy was agreed by 12 permanent representatives of Community states in confidential discussions here Thursday when they agreed there was no hurry to start formal discussions with the East European members of Comecon.

"We don't want to rush into talks with Comecon," one diplomat said, adding: "Discussions must be prepared well in advance and contacts carried out at a lower, technical level before we enter higher level talks."

The representatives would tie themselves to a calendar for the talks with Comecon. But they asked the Community's executive commission to go ahead with preparations for direct negotiations on trade agreements with separate East European nations, starting with Romania and Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet-dominated Comecon has for more than a year been pushing for mutual EC-Comecon recognition.

Reluctant EC states approved Comecon's plea after lengthy debate earlier this year because they did not wish to rebuff Mr. Gorbachev and appear tied too closely to Washington's coat tails.

But they insisted on undertakings from all seven East European Comecon states that any formal pact would not prevent closer ties with individual nations.

This "twin-track" approach was meant to prevent Moscow from using the new ties with Comecon as a means of tightening its control over its East European allies.

Bahrain may slash budget

BAHRAIN (R) — Falling oil prices will force Bahrain to slash its 1986-87 budget estimates by up to 15 per cent, the minister of finance and national economy was quoted Saturday as saying. The minister was also quoted in the Gulf Daily News as saying the island state's economic growth would suffer for the first time in 10 years. He gave no figures. Economic growth in 1985 was estimated at 5.6 per cent. He said that every \$1 fall in oil prices cost Bahrain 15 million dinars (\$39 million). The minister said Bahrain's oil revenues for the first five months of this year totalled about 140 million dinars (\$369 million). He added that expenditure cutbacks would not affect essential services such as health and education.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Seriously consider the practical aspects of your every day existence — how far you've progressed toward goals, what needs to be done to further your ambitions, etc.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Formulate a plan now that can help you to gain your goals with greater efficiency. You can quickly improve your career now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert to changes that are occurring in business and this can bring greater success to you in the days ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Better organizing your daily existence can bring more success in business. Be direct about stating your plans for the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) State your ambitions and discuss them with others who can help you to attain them. Go to bed early tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can get the week's activities scheduled intelligently so that everything will go along smoothly. Be wise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your entertainment affairs should also have an element of practicality in them. Find a sensible way of showing your finest talents.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your home in fine order and don't ask for help of kin, but quietly go about your business conscientiously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study into your newspaper and other periodicals and garner the information you need. Handle communications well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have free time today to study your property and think up ways to make it more valuable. Retire fairly early tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A day to get every phase of your activity planned so that there is greater efficiency now and in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more concerned with helping others today and forget pleasures for now. The social should also be neglected now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Fine day for showing appreciation to good friends who have done you many favors in the past, and good results follow.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a very practical outlook on life and can accomplish a great deal in business, so slant the education along such lines of endeavor. One who could make a great deal of money, but teach early not to want to govern the lives of those he or she comes in contact with.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 14, '86 and ending Wednesday, June 18, '86. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	9886	21910	2.200	2.220	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7280	14770	2.090	1.960	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	3050	4425	1.480	1.450	1.000
Housing Bank	5693	9143	1.610	1.600	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1400	2921	2.100	2.010	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	627	17788	29.000	28.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1442	28726	20.250	18.450	5.000
Arab Bank	1190	173561	148.000	143.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	9738	24482	2.500	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance Bank	12258	9978	0.810	0.810	1.000
Islamic Investment House	7350	5923	0.830	0.800	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	23100	19073	1.320	1.320	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	10552	785	0.860	0.850	1.000
National Financial Investments	1700	2016	1.200	1.180	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	3423	2191	0.630	0.640	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	9135	9136	1.000	1.000	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	250	280	1.120	1.120	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	150	207	1.380	1.380	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan French Insurance	2896	7389	2.590	2.500	1.000
REIFCO Insurance	1756	767	0.930	0.930	1.000
Jordan Insurance	112	1149	10.250	10.250	1.000
Arab Insurance	9525	7592	0.800	0.770	1.000
Yamouk Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1450	1378	0.950	0.950	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	100	230	2.340	2.300	1.000
Philadelphus Insurance	200	160	0.860	0.800	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	1000	1000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	700	1041	1.500	1.490	1.000
Petra Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	500	400	0.800	0.790	1.000
Services and industries					
Dario for Housing and Investment	12910	8948	0.660	0.610	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	1000	590	0.590	0.590	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	756	4385	5.650	5.800	1.000
Dar Al Shaib Press,	—	—	—	—	—
Publishing and Distribution	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Leasing Corporation	599	408	0.670	0.680	1.000
General Investments	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Tanning	2150	3809	1.770	1.800	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	9210	13862	1.510	1.510	1.000
National Shipping Lines	5560	4006	0.740	0.710	1.000
Jordan Dairy	23595	27576	1.170	1.150	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	3866	12524	3.280	3.150	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	3875	2419	0.640	0.620	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	5891	12723	2.120	2.160	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	9739	16729	1.620	1.730	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	4950	21004	4.280	4.190	1.000
Alladin Industries	2100	1197	0.590	0.570	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	22186	19025	0.850	0.850	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	565	2175	3.850	3.850	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	5440	5268	0.970	0.970	1.000
Chemical Industries	5070	5009	0.990	0.980	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	1500	849	0.580	0.560	1.000
Arab-International Hotels	4290	1622	0.380	0.370	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	3293	4887	1.480	1.480	1.000
National Steel Industries	9756	11634	1.200	1.190	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	5065	440	0.870	0.860	1.000
General Mining	105	178	1.700	1.700	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	48433	8443	0.680	0.680	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4014	27274	6.830	6.780	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	3788	942	0.260	0.240	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	1300	390	0.310	0.300	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	2777	3153	1.140	1.130	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	600	300	0.500	0.500	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	10673	13646	1.290	1.280	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	7652	20111	2.650	2.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	200	212	1.000	1.060	1.000
Grand total	349369	631119			

Aid body sucks cash from poor states, study says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The World Bank, the biggest source of aid for poor countries, is draining away cash from many of the areas it was set up to help, according to a report made public Saturday.

The major section of the bank is taking in \$300 million more in repayments and interest than it has been paying out during the year that ends June 30, Mr. Peter Riddleberger, a bank spokesman, confirmed.

During the previous year it approved new loans totalling \$11.4 billion. It gets its money largely from its own borrowing on world markets and makes a regular profit on its operations.

According to the bank's figures, the surplus of intake over outgo will continue through 1988.

On the other hand, the section of the bank that makes 50 year loans to the poorest countries, the International Development Association (IDA), has been putting out more than it takes in: \$1.9 billion for the year that ended last June 30. It approved \$3 billion in new loans.

This part of the bank gets its money from direct contributions by the United States and other countries. The United States has been reducing its contributions.

If the (bank) ceases to be a source of net resources, its very raison d'être as a development finance agency will come into question," according to the study, entitled Between Two Worlds: The World Bank's Next Decade.

It says the bank's tables show Third World countries, which traditionally take in capital from industrial countries like the United States, have been shipping it out in recent years. The estimated drain for 1985 is \$22 billion. Much of this money went to commercial banks as payment of interest on debt.

The book-length report is in the form of an "open letter" to Mr. Barber Conable, a conservative former congressman from New York state who will take over as head of the bank on July 1. He has made no major statements to American media since his appointment.

A Swiss monthly, Bilanz (Balance Sheet) quoted him in its June issue as calling the world situation rather fragile.

"I must say I am worried," he went on. "The debt problem continues to hang over us like a Damoclean sword and the oil and

foreign exchange markets are by no means as stable as I should like to see them."

Damocles was an ancient Greek who had a sword suspended over his head by a single hair.

The report says there is also an outflow from poor countries to the International Monetary Fund, the bank's sister organisation. Though not set up as an aid organisation, the fund in recent years has largely been lending money to poor countries in financial trouble.

Mr. Richard E. Feinberg, the chief author of the report, pointed out in an interview that after lending out over \$30 billion in the first half of the 1980s, the fund expects to get back a net \$600 million this year. Its World Economic Outlook, published in April, projects a net return of \$2.7 billion in 1987.

"It probably won't be that big," Mr. Feinberg said. "They'll be making some new loans."

Officials at the fund and bank explain the situation as due to the cycle of loans and repayments.

World Bank unveils new environmental initiative

Meanwhile, the World Bank Friday unveiled initiatives designed to protect the environment when planning development projects for Third World countries.

Bank Vice President Shahid Hussain told reporters they included establishment of a natural resources information system using satellites and other technology to create a global data base on environmental conditions in developing countries.

Other initiatives included: — A new programme of natural resource management designed to explore ways in which the bank can give greater weight to environmental considerations.

— New policies and guidelines for the preservation and management of wilderness, including greater protection for tropical forests and rare and endangered species.

— Development of new guidelines for handling archaeological sites.

Lebanese lira hits new low

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pound tumbled Friday to its 11th record low against the dollar in a month, breaking the psychological barrier of 40 to the U.S. currency. It closed at 41.50/42.00, a central bank bulletin said, more than two pounds down on the opening 39.35/39.85. This compares with Thursday's close of 39.45/39.75 and the previous record low of 39.50/39.75 on June 11. Dealers attributed the sharp slide of the once resilient currency to heavy dollar demand and political deadlock in Lebanon's 11-year civil war. They said the central bank intervened repeatedly with dollar sales to brake one of the pound's sharpest slides since its international value began to crumble some 18 months ago. So far this year, the pound has lost some 50 per cent of its value, fuelling inflation in a country that imports about 80 per cent of its requirements.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



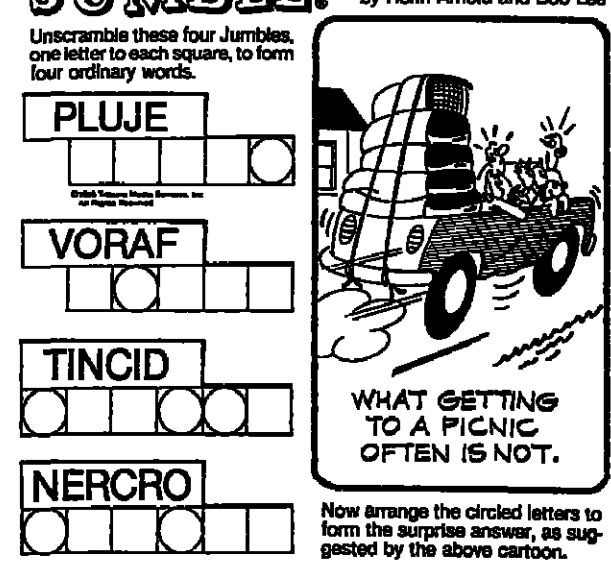
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris

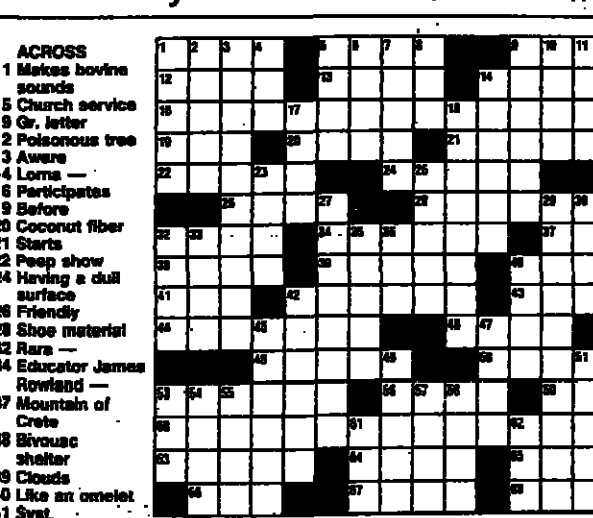


JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here:
Yesterday's Jumbles: LOOSE CLOVE BRUTAL POPLIN
Answer: That cemetery was under heavy security because of this—ALL THE "PLOTS" THERE

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp



ACROSS
1 Males bovine sounds
5 Church service
9 Gr. letter
12 Poisonous tree
13 Aware
14 Lorna
16 Participle
19 Before
20 Coconut fiber
21 Starts
22 Feet show
24 Having a dull surface
26 Friendly
28 Shoe material
32 Rare
34 Educator James
36 Mountain of Crete
38 Bivouac
39 Shatter
40 Like an omelet
41 Syst.
42 Novellet.
43 Quaker pronoun
44 Make-up
46 Reared up
48 City on the Mahanah
50 Participle
51 Sill slope
52 Truck
53 Confom.
54 High-jong
56 Bridge
58 Actress
59 Swenson
60 Odd's son
61 School dance
62 Rippling factor
DOWN
1 One, weapon
2 Millau for Scott
3 One-time swimmer's aid
4 Call-up org.
5 One, prot.
6 Against
7 Typocon
8 Dross
9 Pomper
10 Investor Elias
11 Monogram part abbr.
12 D.D.S. word
13 Printer's measures
14 Bakery worker
15 Guesthouse manager
16 "— of Eden"
17 On the qui vive
18 Pacha
19 Kind of board
20 Slide
21 Conscience
22 Thomas and kin
23 Outlier
24 Eng.-river
25 Clear sky
26 Sponge
27 Poet's close
28 Aunt. Sp.
29 Large plane
30 Cheapskate
31 Conductor
32 Knepper
33 Hr.
34 Cooking ant.
35 Aunt. Sp.

Poland accuses U.S. diplomat of spying

WARSAW (R) — The Polish authorities have accused a U.S. diplomat in Warsaw of spying and summoned for questioning two prominent Solidarity figures alleged to have had contact with him.

Second Secretary Stephen Mull was named Friday by the official PAP news agency as "a staffer of U.S. intelligence known for his extra-diplomatic interests and lively contacts with the anti-state opposition in Poland."

The Interior Ministry's counter-intelligence section had arrested a Pole, Bogdan Charyton, who it was alleged had been recruited into U.S. intelligence while abroad in 1981, PAP said.

Charyton, described as a physiotherapist, was shown on state television saying he had met Mull twice and a television commentator said he had passed on information to the diplomat.

PAP said Mull had also met Professor Bronislaw Geremek, a senior adviser to Solidarity, and Father Henryk Jankowski of St. Brygid's Church in Gdansk who is well known for his outspoken support for the banned trade union.

A student in the southern city of Wroclaw said to have been a Solidarity activist also met Mull, PAP said.

Geremek, who has been questioned by police several times in connection with the capture last month of underground Solidarity leader Zbigniew Bujak, was

summoned for more interrogation Saturday and Father Jankowski said he had been ordered to report to Gdansk police on Monday.

Western diplomats often meet members of the opposition in Poland and Geremek was one of several Solidarity activists at a British embassy reception in Warsaw this week on the occasion of the queen's birthday.

British Ambassador Brian Barden was summoned by the Foreign Ministry shortly before the reception and told of the authorities' displeasure that opposition members had been invited, diplomatic sources said.

One senior diplomat said the authorities' linking of Solidarity with an alleged spy was merely a prolonged smear campaign against the trade union.

Mull was unavailable for comment Saturday and diplomatic sources said he was having consultations in his embassy.

He and his wife Cheri were due to leave Poland on July 31 at the scheduled end of their posting but diplomats expected the authorities to expel them soon.

Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa has also been summoned for police questioning on Tuesday, his wife Danuta told Reuters from

their home in Gdansk.

Opposition sources noted that Walesa has applied for permission to travel to Rome next month at the invitation of Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The summons is believed to be in connection with Bujak's arrest and could be used as an excuse by the authorities to delay or prevent Walesa's visit which coincides with the Polish Communist Party congress which starts on June 29.

Meanwhile in Washington a Soviet colonel has been ordered out of the United States after the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said an undercover operation caught him trying to steal top military secrets.

FBI agents said the secrets sought by the senior Soviet military official, Vladimir Izmaylov, involved the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — also known as "Star Wars" — cruise missiles and super-secret Stealth bomber technology.

They announced Friday that Col. Izmaylov, the top-ranking air force officer at the Soviet embassy in Washington, was caught during a year-long "sitting operation" in which a U.S. military man posed as a traitor.

The unidentified U.S. Air Force officer pretended to be a spy by feeding the Soviet official what appeared to be valuable information, the agents said.

State Department officials said the expulsion of Col. Izmaylov was not expected to damage U.S.-Soviet relations.

14 Tamils killed in battle with troops

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government troops killed 14 Tamil militants in a battle near the northern port of Kankesanthurai, the military's joint operations command said Saturday.

A command official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the Tamils were all fighters who died after attacking an army patrol Friday night near the port 114 kilometres north of Colombo.

Residents in Tamil-populated Jaffna said, however, that some of the dead were civilians caught in the crossfire between soldiers and the Tamil militants fighting for a separate homeland.

The residents, who were reached by telephone from Colombo and spoke on condition of anonymity, said details of the fighting were not immediately available. They maintained the exact number of civilians killed might never be known, saying soldiers usually remove the bodies.

The government, meanwhile, said 143 people, including 112 civilians, were killed by Tamil separatists in the 30-day period ending in mid-June.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera listed the killings on Friday as parliament voted to extend emergency rule for the 36th consecutive month. The emergency rule gives the government wide-ranging power to arrest suspects without charge and impose controls on troubled areas and the press.

Mr. Perera said the 143 killings took place between May 16 and June 15.

He told the parliament that 90 civilians and 31 members of the security forces were killed in the troubled northern and eastern districts of the country. He said 22 civilians were also killed in explosions in Colombo and aboard a train about 40 kilometres from the capital.

Mr. Perera did not list deaths of Tamil civilians or fighters during the period.

Based on reports from witnesses and claims from Tamil rebel groups, more than 140 Tamil civilians were killed during that time in reprisal attacks blamed by the Tamils on soldiers or home guards armed by the government.

The statistics are vague, however, because the government lists some dead as Tamil fighters while the Tamils account for the same victims as civilians. There is no way to independently confirm the various claims by the government or rebel groups.

Strong quake shakes Tibet

PEKING (AP) — A strong earthquake shook central Tibet early Saturday, the state seismological bureau announced. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale, was monitored in north western Xainza county in central Tibet, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Xainza county is about 250 kilometres from Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 is considered severe and capable of causing widespread damage in populated areas. The Richter Scale measures the total energy of an earthquake, as measured by ground motion recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number on the scale represents a 10-fold increase in the earthquake's strength.

Malaysian board rejects appeal against death sentence

LONDON (R) — Britain expressed deep regret Saturday at the decision by a Malaysian Pardons Board to reject a final appeal against death sentences for two Australians, one of whom has joint British nationality.

Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers, both 28, will become the first Westerners to hang under Malaysia's tough new anti-drug laws after the Penang Pardons Board earlier Saturday rejected their appeal. Barlow was born in Stoke, England.

The two were arrested in November 1983 at Penang Airport with 180 grammes (6.3 ounces) of heroin on them and were later convicted of drug smuggling.

The British government has learnt with deep regret of the decision of the Penang Pardons Board to confirm the sentence of death," the Foreign Office said.

A statement said Britain and Australia had been in close and constant touch over the issue. "We and they have made appeals for commutation of the sentence on humanitarian grounds. We regret that the Penang Pardons Board has not been able to accept the appeals," it added.

transportation in Haryana for 20 hours beginning Friday night. The cancellation of bus and train services stranded thousands of passengers wanting to go to other Indian states north of Haryana. Trains and buses have to pass through Haryana to travel to Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh states.

Chandigarh, a model city built in the 1950s by French architect Le Corbusier, has been at the centre of a bitter dispute between the two rival states for the past two decades.

Administered by the federal government, Chandigarh currently serves as the joint capital of Punjab and Hindu dominated Haryana. Mr. Gandhi pledged to merge Chandigarh with Punjab in a peace pact he signed last year with Sikh moderates.

Mr. Gandhi held an emergency meeting of his cabinet's Political Affairs Committee late Friday and decided to postpone Chandigarh's transfer until July 15, said a government spokesman, adding that the new date was tentative.

The decision followed an angry statement by Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, leader of Sikh moderates, denouncing the appointment earlier Friday of a new judicial arbiter.

This is nothing but a mockery of the judicial process, Mr. Barnala said.

The arbiter, retired supreme

Peruvian rebels stage attacks as Socialist congress opens in Lima

LIMA (Agencies) — Several leftist guerrilla bombs exploded in central Lima and a young rebel blew herself up trying to mortar a conference centre where Socialists from around the world were beginning a major congress.

The attacks Friday followed a day of bloody fighting in two Lima prisons in which at least 154 leftist guerrilla inmates were killed in pitched battles with troops and marines for control of the jails.

Police said a woman in her 20s was hurled from the roof of a six-storey building when a mortar she was aiming at a conference centre 200 metres away exploded.

They said the mortar blew up within minutes of the arrival of Peruvian President Alan Garcia to inaugurate the Socialist International congress.

Four people who later disappeared gained access to the building by showing credentials from the police investigation branch, they added.

Police said guerrillas also used detective credentials to gain access to three city centre restaurants within several blocks of the conference centre where they left dynamite bombs which later exploded.

They said the restaurants were all damaged but no one was injured in the blasts.

An air force truck carrying cotton for bedding was gutted when a petrol bomb was thrown aboard several hundred metres from the conference centre, police said, and a bomb was defused in a

car in the port of Callao.

They said a policeman was shot dead and another was wounded at Chosica, 40 kilometres east of the capital.

The attacks, apparently aimed at disrupting the Socialist International congress, showed the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (shining path) had not been cowed by the major defeat it suffered in the prisons at the hands of the military.

Marines were still sifting through the ruins of the cell block at the island prison of El Fronton, dragging out bodies from the maze of underground tunnels and galleries built by guerrilla inmates.

The military said Friday 30 bodies had been recovered at El Fronton and more lay buried in the wreckage.

At El Fronton and Lurigancho jail, where 124 guerrillas were killed according to official figures, military sources said commandos and marines used rockets and anti-tank missiles to break down the inmates' brick and concrete barricades.

The military said three soldiers were killed and 20 wounded as the guerrillas defended their positions with automatic Fal rifles, submachine guns and explosives smuggled into the prisons.

More than 100 uniformed policemen armed with submachine guns and automatic rifles surrounded the convention centre block after the explosions, and a police helicopter made low sweeps over the area.

The Socialist International groups Socialist and Social Democratic Parties from 77 countries, chiefly in Europe and Latin America. Its president is Willy Brandt, the former chancellor of West Germany.

More than 400 delegates are in Lima to attend the organisation's 17th meeting since it was founded in 1951, and its first congress in Latin America.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, who was in Caracas, Venezuela, on Friday, and Prime Minister Bettino Craxi of Italy decided not to attend the gathering for security reasons, officials with their governments said.

The Foreign Ministry quoted a spokeswoman for the Italian embassy as saying that Mr. Craxi "cancelled his visit to Lima because of the violence occurred in three state prisons, in which members of the Shining Path rioted on Thursday."

The only visiting head of government or state attending the meeting is Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa of Finland.

In his opening speech Friday, Mr. Garcia denounced terrorism and what he said was a campaign by the news media to keep delegates away from the Lima conference.

"You have come despite a deliberate campaign in which sensationalist news about Peru was broadcast in order to instill fear in those about to take part in this congress," he said.

Ramos: Military is not coup-prone

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, who helped lead a soldiers' revolt against Ferdinand Marcos four months ago, dismissed widespread speculation Saturday that the military was readying a repeat performance against President Corason Aquino.

"We do not have that kind of background," Gen. Ramos said.

The tough, cigar-smoking Philippine chief of staff spoke in an interview with the Associated Press in which he carefully skirted such sensitive political issues as differences within Mrs. Aquino's administration over the future of U.S. military bases here and over peace overtures to the Philippines' Communist rebels.

But the West Point-trained Vietnam War veteran did issue a warning against what he said were "termites" Communist infiltrators — trying to "bore" into the Philippine government.

Gen. Ramos and Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile led a military revolt, backed by hundreds of thousands of Philippine civilians, after Marcos tried to gain re-election through vote fraud last February.

The almost bloodless coup drove Marcos from the country and installed Mrs. Aquino as president.

Gen. Ramos, previously deputy chief, was named chief of staff, taking command of the government's 17-year-old campaign against the Communist New People's Army insurgents.

This week, a series of developments prompted rumours of a new coup.

Mr. Enrile took a public stand favouring long-term retention of U.S. military bases, in contrast to Mrs. Aquino's neutrality on the issue.

An unconfirmed Philippine press report said the staunchly anti-Communist Enrile was about



Gen. Fidel Ramos

to be ousted from the cabinet. And reports persisted that the military was unhappy with what it sees as a "soft" government attitude toward the Communist guerrillas.

But no outward tension has gripped this city, and both Mr. Enrile and Mrs. Aquino discounted the rumours.

Asked about the coup scare on Saturday in the interview at his command office, Gen. Ramos smiled and waved his hand.

"You are right here in our headquarters and you don't see any struggling around with firearms or in battle gear," he said.

"We don't have that kind of background," he said. "If it happened once, in February 1986, it was a non-violent solution by the military, and the military... declared that the powers of government should be retained by the civil authorities."

The 58-year-old general, who has had a 40-year military career, said the two major U.S. installations in the Philippines — Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base — are important for

preserving strategic stability in the region.

But he would not, as Mr. Enrile has done, endorse the retention of the bases beyond the 1991 expiration of the current U.S.-Philippines bases agreement.

"We are leaving this to the political leadership to decide, and the president has made it clear she is keeping her options open," he said.

Mrs. Aquino says she will hold a national plebiscite on the question of long-term maintenance of the bases.

Likewise, Gen. Ramos would not criticise the government's current efforts to negotiate a cease-fire with the Communist rebels.

"But we must be aware of the track record of the Communist Party of the Philippines," the general said, referring to what he called its sole goal of "seizing government power by any means."

Some conservative Filipinos have asserted that high-ranking aides in Mrs. Aquino's government are either Communist sympathisers or "closet" Communists.

Asked about this, the military chief replied, "since they were founded, the Communists have always been trying to do this, that is, infiltration."

"We compare it with the termite... I am not saying where they are. I am just saying these people bore in."

Meanwhile at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz played down the long-distance role that Marcos is playing in Philippines politics.

Mr. Shultz, aboard a U.S. Air Force jet Friday carrying him on the start of a 10-day Asian trip, said the former president has a right to criticise the government of his successor, Corason Aquino.

Gonzalez appeals for big majority in today's poll

MADRID (R) — Spanish Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, concerned at apparent complacency among supporters, has made a final plea for a big majority in Sunday's general election.

After early forecasts that Mr. Gonzalez's Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) would win convincingly, there have been indications that he faces voter apathy and will not repeat his 1982 landslide, when he won 202 of parliament's 350 seats.

"Do not take the Socialist victory for granted," Mr. Gonzalez told some 70,000 supporters at a final election rally in Madrid Friday night. "I ask for your support, your enthusiasm to build that Spain progressive people have been dreaming of."

Mr. Gonzalez made a special plea to young voters, among whom disenchantment with the Socialist's austerity policies is highest.

Socialist sources admitted they were no longer certain of an absolute majority.

While optimism seemed to have evaporated from the Socialist camp, supporters of right-wing leader Manuel Fraga appeared in a jubilant mood at a big rally in central Madrid.

Mr. Fraga, the forceful and tireless 63-year-old leader of Popular Coalition (CP), has barnstormed the country with his platform of law-and-order and privatisation of the economy.

He has covered some 15,000 kilometres to address rallies in 25 cities and given more than 30 hours of radio interviews in a bid to unseat the Socialists.

But opinion polls say his party is unlikely to win more than the 106 seats it held in the outgoing

parliament.

Mr. Fraga, addressing what he called the "largest political rally in Spain's contemporary history," urged voters Friday night to back the CP as the only alternative to Socialist rule.

"The people want democracy without three million unemployed, thousands of drug addicts and guerrillas who run for parliament," Mr. Fraga said.

CP leaders said 1.5 million people attended the street rally in Madrid's Salamanca district, while police put the attendance at 100,000.

Police were put on maximum alert at midnight following this week's Basque guerrilla killings of three army men in Madrid.

The entire national police corps and paramilitary civil guard have been drafted to protect polling centres, party and trade union headquarters, airports, stations and government buildings against possible guerrilla attack.

The election campaign has been marred by clashes between Muslims and Spaniards in Spain's North African enclave of Melilla.

Melilla's police chief was dismissed Friday and 30 policemen flown back to the mainland after refusing to break up a demonstration by right-wingers demanding the resignation of the central government's representative.

Local officials said the policemen were replaced by a fresh company of riot police flown in from northern Spain.

The demonstration occurred after Spanish soccer fans celebrating their team's victory over Denmark in the World Cup finals in Mexico hurled threats at Muslim leader Ahomari Mohamedi Duda.

Gandhi postpones transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has postponed the controversial merger of disputed Chandigarh city with Sikh-dominated Punjab State until next month, a government spokesman said Saturday.

After the news became known, Mr. Gandhi's opponents called off a protest general strike in Haryana state Saturday. Authorities deployed 10,000 troops and cancelled all train and bus services in the region to deter violence.

Devi Lal, the top opposition leader of Hindu-majority Haryana, told reporters that strike leaders will meet Monday to decide the new date for the planned shutdown.

The opposition groups had called the strike Saturday to coincide with the scheduled transfer of Chandigarh city to Haryana's rival neighbour, Punjab state.

The transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab was originally scheduled for Saturday. However, it was postponed late Friday after Sikh moderates rejected a proposal that a new judicial arbiter demarcate within 12 hours the Punjab areas to be given to neighbouring Haryana state in exchange for the disputed city.

Authorities, fearing widespread violence during the opposition protest, alerted the Indian army and shut down road

transportation in Haryana for 20 hours beginning Friday night. The cancellation of bus and train services stranded thousands of passengers wanting to go to other Indian states north of Haryana. Trains and buses have to pass through Haryana to travel to Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh states.

Chandigarh, a model city built in the 1950s by French architect Le Corbusier, has been at the centre of a bitter dispute between the two rival states for the past two decades.

Administered by the federal government, Chandigarh currently serves as the joint capital of Punjab and Hindu dominated Haryana. Mr. Gandhi pledged to merge Chandigarh with Punjab in a peace pact he signed last year with Sikh moderates.

Mr. Gandhi held an emergency meeting of his cabinet's Political Affairs Committee late Friday and decided to postpone Chandigarh's transfer until July 15, said a government spokesman, adding that the new date was tentative.

The decision followed an angry statement by Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, leader of Sikh moderates, denouncing the appointment earlier Friday of a new judicial arbiter.

This is nothing but a mockery of the judicial process, Mr. Barnala said.

The arbiter, retired supreme

court Justice D.A. Desai, is the third commissioner appointed by the central government this year in the territorial dispute.

Mr. Desai, chairman of the Law Commission of India, was asked to decide by Saturday afternoon which areas of Punjab should go to Haryana.

The appointment of Mr. Desai was necessitated by the failure of a previous judicial commission to demarcate all the 70,000 acres of Punjab territory to be merged with Haryana.

The planned transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab triggered widespread resentment in Haryana and opposition groups called for statewide protests against the "injustice" to their region.

The 70,000 acres of land to be transferred to Haryana is about one-fourth of territory assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had promised to give the state if it surrendered Chandigarh.

The first judicial commission appointed to arbitrate the dispute had actually recommended in 1971 the transfer of Chandigarh to Haryana since the city has a Hindi-speaking, rather than a Punjabi-speaking, majority.

But Mrs. Gandhi's son and successor pledged to give Chandigarh to Punjab in a package deal he signed with Sikh moderate leaders in July 1985 to resolve the crisis.

The peace accord, rejected by Sikh extremists, has not helped to restore normalcy in the state, escalating Sikh terrorism has left more than 400 people dead this year alone in Punjab.

A daylong general strike called by Hindu groups to protest escalating violence in the region crippled activity in Amritsar Saturday.

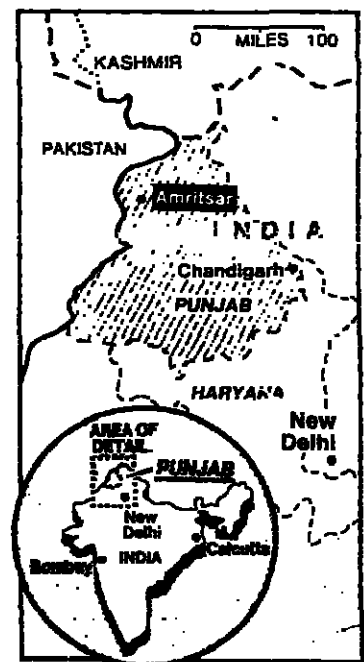
The shutdown was in reaction to the killings of eight Hindus on Friday in a village outside Amritsar. It was believed to be the bloodiest, terrorist attack in a village this year.

Two Hindus, meanwhile, were seriously wounded in two separate attacks overnight by Sikh extremists in neighbouring Gurdaspur district, police Chief J.P. Bardi said Saturday. One of the attacks occurred in Dera Baba Nanak, birthplace of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak.

The strike shut down most shops, markets, movie theatres, restaurants and businesses in Hindu-majority Amritsar, sea of the 17th-century Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine. Few vehicles were seen on the streets.

No violence was immediately reported.

Sikh extremists have killed more than 400 people this year alone in rising hit-and-run attacks in Punjab, home of India's 13-million-member Sikh sect.



Militants are campaigning for greater autonomy or a separate Sikh nation to be called "Khalistan."

In the shootings Friday, six terrorists armed with British automatic rifles raided a government electricity station at Gondwal village outside Amritsar, selectively killing five Hindu employees but leaving Sikh workers unharmed. While escaping, they sprayed gunfire at civilians, leaving three more Hindus dead.

COLUMN

Charles, Diana rock the evening away

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana, Britain's future king and queen, joined 10,000 rock fans for a charity music extravaganza with some of the world's top music stars. The concert, featuring many of the stars who performed in the transatlantic Live Aid famine relief concert last year, took place at London's Wembley arena in aid of a charity started by the Prince to help disadvantaged youngsters.

The stars, who all performed for nothing to raise money for the charity, included Elton John, Tina Turner, Phil Collins, Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger, David Bowie and Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits, the princess's favourite group. The royal couple cut a large cake to mark the 10th birthday of the charity, called the Prince of Wales Trust.

Antarctic scientists to get 1,440 eggs

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — A U.S. Air Force jet left Christchurch Saturday to drop about 1,500 fresh eggs to scientists in Antarctica. The 1,440 eggs, individually wrapped in foam rubber, are among tonnes of cargo to be parachuted to three research stations, including the U.S. base at the South Pole where six women and 11 men are spending the winter. The Starliner jet was to be refuelled in the air three times on the 5,200 kilometre flight to the South Pole. It will supply New Zealand's Scott Base and the U.S. McMurdo Station on the way and return back. Scott Base also will receive two litres of liquid hormone to spray on its garden of tomatoes, radishes, lettuce and flowers.

Chagall's last major work unveiled

CHICAGO (R) — Artist Marc Chagall's last major work, a colourful tapestry on the theme of human suffering, was unveiled at a Chicago medical centre for crippled and deformed people. The eight-foot by 13-foot work (2.4 metre by 3.9-metre), entitled "Job", was installed in the lobby of the Rehabilitation Institute, a facility which treats those paralysed or maimed in catastrophic accidents. The tapestry of vivid hues and free-floating figures, characteristic of the famed Russian-born artist who worked in several mediums, depicts an injured man being comforted by a woman, with numerous other figures offering assistance.

Some 400 authors jailed worldwide

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — About 400 authors, journalists and publicists throughout the world are in jail for their political convictions and the Soviet Union heads the "sad statistics," a spokeswoman for the International Writers Association Pen has said. Angelika Mechtel, West German member of the Committee for Writers in Prison in the International Pen, told reporters she could not give any precise figures. But, she added, there were indications that more dissident writers were being held in jail, psychiatric wards or labour camps in the Soviet Union than anywhere else in the world. Other countries cited as constantly breaching the "basic human right of freedom of expression" included Cuba, Mexico, Turkey, Iran, Vietnam and South Africa. There are currently seven Cuban writers sentenced to jail terms ranging from 17 years to life, she said.

Michelangelo food list found in library

ST. LOUIS (R) — Michelangelo's scribbled list of dwindling home food supplies during the siege of Florence 456 years ago has been discovered in a St. Louis library, officials have said. The officials from Washington University said the scrap of paper, worth as much as \$50,000, was found by an art history student doing research at the university. The hand-written document says: "I Michelangelo Buonarroti have at home eight barrels of wine and about two barrels of vinegar and four mouths to feed." It is dated 1530, the year Florence was under siege by armies of the Holy Roman Empire. William Wallace, a Michelangelo expert at the university, said the find is important because it deals with a period of the artist's life that was previously undocumented.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARF
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